

Rocket kills 9, injures 17 in Kabul

KABUL (AP) — A rocket fired by guerrillas Wednesday killed nine people and injured 17 outside Kabul airport, Afghan security officers said.

They said the victims were among a crowd inside a tent, waiting to board an Ariana Afghan Airlines flight bound for Tashkent and Moscow.

Two Soviet women and a Soviet girl about two years old were among those killed, according to an officer of Sarandoy, an Afghan paramilitary force entrusted with airport security. The other people killed were Afghans, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

One of the injured victims was a Soviet citizen, and the rest were Afghans, he added.

The rocket was one of 21 that hit the airport grounds between 9:25 a.m. and 3 p.m., the officer said. No one was injured by the other rockets, but some windows

were broken in airport buildings. The Sarandoy officer said some of the rockets landed in areas of the airport used by Soviet troops but he could not give any details.

All civilian flights out of the airport were cancelled for the remainder of Wednesday and for Thursday, he said. Afghan and Soviet forces, who base helicopters and transport planes at the same airport, continued to take off and land after the rocket attacks.

The rocket that killed the Soviets and Afghans landed at 1 p.m. just outside the last of several gates barring access to the airport terminal. The dead and wounded were among about 40 people waiting inside a tent.

Four hours after the attack,

large bloodstains marked the sidewalk in front of the tent, and small puddles of water were bright red. The tent was blown off its pegs, the canvas pitted with shrapnel holes.

Wooden and metal chairs lay in a tangled heap. Among the debris were the body of a fluffy, black and yellow cat, a wristwatch strap and torn plastic handles from tote bags.

A workman scraped gravel over the pools of blood. The officer was unable to say how big a rocket struck the tent or from what distance it had been fired.

According to Western diplomats, the guerrillas fighting Soviet and Afghan troops use rockets which have a range of 15 kilometres to 22 kilometres.

It was the biggest attack at the airport since the first week of September when guerrilla rockets destroyed eight Soviet-made

Sukhoi ground attack jets. The number of human casualties in that attack was not known.

Dissidents arrested

Dissenting members of Afghanistan's dominant party were arrested prior to a meeting of the party's leadership, an official source said Wednesday.

Other Afghan sources said the central committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) began its session Wednesday morning, although no official announcement was made.

The arrests of an undisclosed number of party members also was announced Tuesday night on government television.

The session follows reports of disagreements among party leaders as the government seeks to reach a settlement with the guerrillas.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Nobel laureates urge peace talks

WASHINGTON (R) — Seventeen American Nobel laureates called Tuesday for negotiations and compromise in the Middle East, saying they were the only paths to peace. The prize winners said a Middle East peace pact that called for a renunciation of terrorism and aggression could be achieved in negotiations. An agreement could also protect "minorities within a self-governed Palestinian homeland with borders drawn to accommodate legitimate Israeli security concerns," they said. The laureates, who account for 18 Nobel prizes in a variety of fields, sent letters to Middle East leaders, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Reagan administration and the Soviet Union. "All parties must at long last realise that they cannot have peace without compromise and that there will be no chance of peace without negotiation," the laureates said.

Sabbah urges recognition for PLO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem Tuesday appealed to President Ronald Reagan on behalf of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories and told U.S. officials he hoped for official recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Archbishop Michel Sabbah, the

first Palestinian to hold the Latin patriarch post, told Reagan at a 10-minute White House meeting that "the Jewish people are enjoying their human rights, the Palestinians are not. Since 1967 they have been living under Israeli military occupation." The president said in response that he hopes for peace in the area through negotiations, Sabbah told reporters. Sabbah said he had conveyed to Secretary of State George Shultz the Palestinian people's hopes that the PLO eventually will be accepted as their spokesman.

Israel, Soviet Union set up phone link

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel and the Soviet Union have established a direct telephone link for the first time in more than 20 years, the communications ministry announced Tuesday. The link enables Israelis to place direct calls to residents of six Soviet towns, including the principal cities of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev, ministry spokesman Avi Hefetz said.

Sudanese civilian plane shot at

KHARTOUM (AP) — A Sudan Airways Boeing 707 was shot at while taking off from Juba airport Monday. One engine was hit but the plane flew back to Khartoum with three engines and landed safely, informed sources said Tuesday. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they did not know how many people were on the plane, which mainly carries relief supplies to Juba, capital of the Equatoria region in the south.

Israel gives U.N. details of satellite

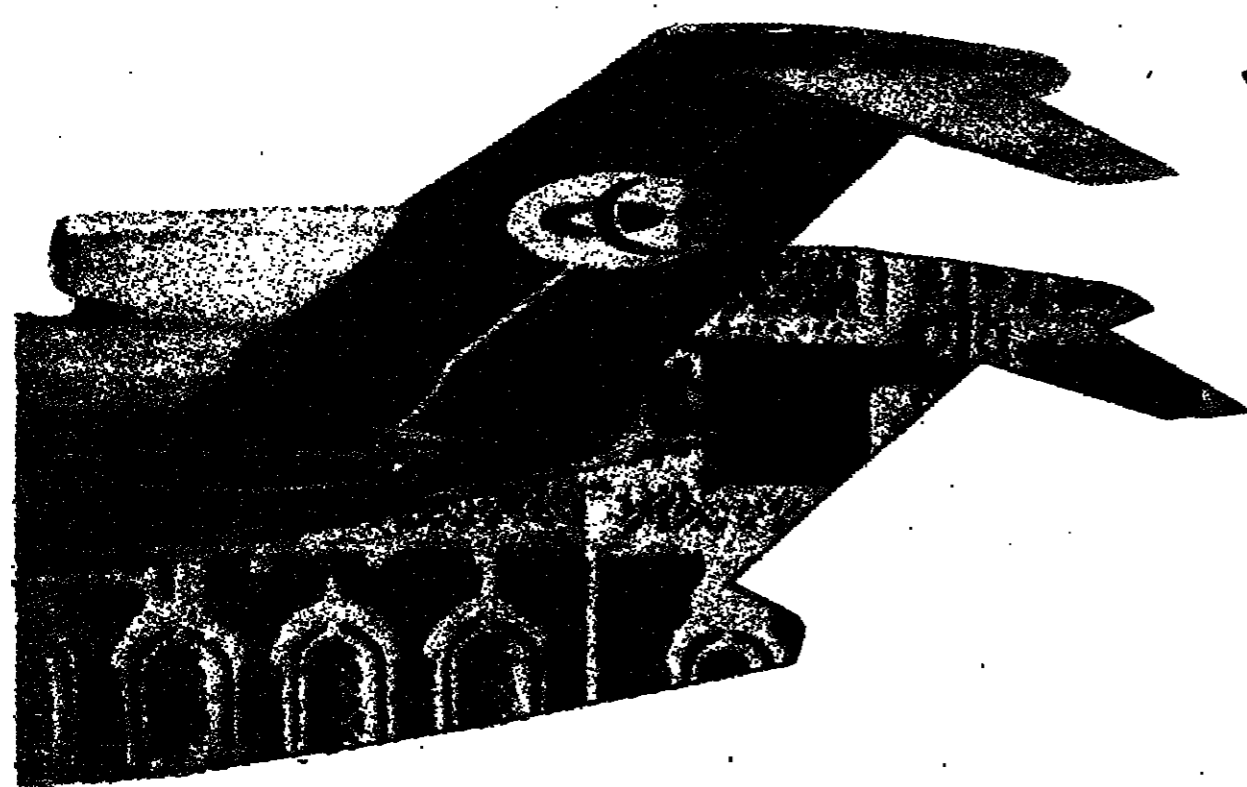
UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israel has provided the United Nations with details of its Ofek-1 experimental satellite, launched Sept. 19. In a note published Tuesday, it listed the satellite's general function as: "A. Experimentation in generation of solar power; B. Experimentation in transmission reception from space; C. Verification of system's ability to withstand vacuum and weightless conditions; D. Data collection on space environment conditions and earth's magnetic field."

U.S. court dismisses war powers suit

WASHINGTON (R) — A Federal appeals court Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit by 110 congressional Democrats seeking to force President Reagan to invoke the War Powers Act over the navy's escort of oil tankers in the Gulf. The suit was filed in August 1982, one month after navy warships began an operation to protect reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers from attack by Iranian forces. A ceasefire in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war took effect in August, and the U.S. convoys were halted last month. The unanimous three-judge panel said the claim that U.S. military forces were involved in "present or imminent" hostilities in the Gulf represented a political issue, not a legal question for the court.

U.N. accepts Israeli credentials

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The General Assembly Tuesday voted to accept Israel's credentials, and the Zionist state picked up 15 votes over last year. The assembly voted 95 to 41, with seven abstentions and 16 states absent, to accept Israel's credentials and its full participation in the 159-member world body.



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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:35 Programme review
15:40 Children programmes
15:45 Baby Folk
15:50 Local programme
16:00 News summary
16:05 World Reports
16:10 Local programme
16:15 Series: A.L.F.
16:20 Health programme
16:25 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Programme review
16:45 Programme on Algeria
16:50 Film in Arabic
16:55 News summary in Arabic
17:00 Film (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Magique de chaniel
17:35 Goya
17:40 Aventures Aventure
17:45 Rue Carot
17:50 News in French
17:55 Un DB De Plus
18:00 News in Hebrew
18:05 Variety Show
18:10 Bill Cosby Show
18:15 Beauty and the Beast
18:20 News in English
18:25 Feature film: "Treasures of the Sea"

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Morning Show Cont'd.
09:00 Country Music
09:15 Hisville: The story of Motown
09:30 News Summary
09:45 News Music
10:00 News Summary
10:15 Pop Session
10:30 News Bulletin
10:45 Instrumentals
11:00 Comedy
11:15 Concert Hour
11:30 News Summary
11:45 Old Favourites
12:00 Instrumentals
12:15 Old Favourites
12:30 Azimut, Vegetable, Mineral

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1360 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued approving an amendment to the Ministry of Youth's statutes and internal regulations, which mostly govern the ministry's centres and duties of their staff and Al Hussein Youth City (Petra).

IRAQI GUEST VISITS AQABA: Iraqi Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Nizar Abdul Karim Faisal Wednesday visited the southern military region and forward military positions. He also visited the Royal Coast Guard and toured the Aqaba Region Authority and was briefed on its goals and projects. He later visited Petra and toured Mu'ta University where he was briefed on the university's military wing (Petra).

COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY PROGRAMME: Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali has paid an inspection visit to Zarqa Security Department and heard a briefing on its duties and the application of the PSD-sponsored comprehensive security programme. Later, Majali visited a school for training policemen, the stables for horses being used by mounted policemen in carrying out patrols and a unit for training car drivers (Petra).

PALM TREE SEMINAR: The Agriculture Department in Zarqa Wednesday organised a seminar at Azraq and Dughailah to orient farmers on palm tree planting. The seminar paves the way for the plantation of palm trees in the Azraq region which is suitable for this strain of trees, according to local agriculture officials (Petra).

ANANI MEETS IRAQI LEADER: Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan conferred in Baghdad Wednesday with Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani and his accompanying delegation. Ramadan said Jordan and Iraq, are linked by very strong relations; and ought to expand their bilateral cooperation in scientific fields through the RSS and Iraqi research institutes (Petra).

FRENCH CULTURAL EXCHANGE: A visiting French cultural team Wednesday called at Yarmouk University and met with its Vice President for academic affairs to discuss cooperation in scientific and cultural fields. Agreement was reached on an exchange of visits by students of Arabic in French universities and French language students at Yarmouk University during the summer (Petra).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE: Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation Director General Ghazi Rifai left for Geneva Wednesday to take part in a conference organised by the Universal Postal Union, where he will submit a working paper on modernising postal services in Jordan (Petra).

SUDANESE ARTIST: Under the patronage of Royal Jordanian Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour an art exhibition entitled "Etchings" by Sudanese Artist Mohammad Khalil will be opened Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Al Wasiti Art Gallery in Plaza Hotel. The exhibition will continue through Thursday Nov. 3 (J.T.).

AMMURA EXHIBITION: Under the Patronage of Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Hisham Al Khatib, an art exhibition by Alia Al Shanti Ammura will be opened Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition will continue through Thursday Oct. 27 (J.T.).

STANDARDISATION MEETING: The Amman-based Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology opened a preliminary meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss draft specifications of Arab products which will be referred to a general conference to start here on Saturday. The meeting is attended by delegates from 11 Arab countries in their capacities as directors of organisations in charge of specifications and standards (Petra).

Women's conference calls for efficient contribution in development

CAIRO (Petra) — A three-day conference on the role of women in Arab countries development which was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, has ended in Cairo issuing a set of recommendations underlining the importance of training, to enable efficient contribution by women to Arab development.

Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber, who represented Jordan at the conference that was organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said the delegates were unanimous in calling for a research on women's role and training that would help women offer meaningful contributions to their countries.

"In the last session the delegates discussed special programmes in which the UNDP can help to involve women in production

activities especially in agriculture," Abdul Jaber said.

"The emphasis on the role of women, he said, was in line with the principles and objectives of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) which is governed by a board of trustees chaired by Princess Basma and which strives to carry out training programmes for women in urban and rural regions of Jordan through the QAF centres," Abdul Jaber added.

The conference had discussed working papers dealing with women's role in economic, political, social and educational fields in rural and urban regions of the Arab world.

Abdul Jaber said that the Jordanian delegation provided the Arab delegates with a draft agreement on the newly estab-

lished Arab Women's Scientific Council which will be opened to all women in the Arab World and which will strive to bolster relations between Arab women's unions.

Upon opening the conference last Sunday Princess Basma said that Jordan believed in an active role for women in developing the society's potential and in women's contributions to stability within the nation.

Meanwhile Mrs. Inaam Al Mufti, director general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) has returned to Amman after taking part in the Cairo meeting.

During her stay in Cairo Mrs. Mufti held talks with a number of Arab delegates and informed them of projects being carried out by NHF in Jordan.

Conference to study employment of computers in air conditioning

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference on air conditioning and refrigeration will open at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Monday and will be attended by Arab and foreign countries as well as representatives from various regional and international organisations.

Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) President Laith Shbeilat spoke at a press conference here Wednesday to explain the objectives of the coming conference which will review 28 working papers from Jordan and other countries.

Air conditioning and refrigera-

tion play a major role in industry and in research programme and they both are essential elements in urban and industrial development projects, Shbeilat said.

He said a number of subjects pertaining to technology in air conditioning and refrigeration will be discussed, such as the employment of computers and solar energy, means of rationalising energy consumption, and control of the quality of manufactured products and components used in the air conditioning and refrigeration process.

The research papers he said come from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, the USA, Britain, France, Yugoslavia and Lebanon.

According to Shbeilat, several international firms will organise an exhibition to display air conditioning and refrigeration products and the delegates will be taken on field trips to Jordanian industrial businesses.

Shbeilat said that the conference, which will be opened by Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh, has been organised by the Paris-based international union of air conditioning and refrigeration.

New pharmacists sworn in

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 50 pharmacists Wednesday were sworn in before Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh at the professional association complex upon joining the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA).

Hamzeh made a speech on the occasion, underlining the signifi-

cant role of the pharmacists in public health and said his ministry was intensifying efforts with the help of all health workers to extend health services to people in all parts of the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Health, he said, provides medicine at nominal cost to some 2.6 million inhabi-

itants who now benefit from the primary health care services through health centres around the country.

The JPA president earlier made a speech urging the new pharmacists to honour the profession through their dedication and service to the public.

Crown Prince calls for increased focus on regional housing projects

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday called on departments concerned with housing to link housing plans with regional and sectoral planning, and urged municipal councils to streamline their respective housing projects with regional plans.

Addressing the final session of a seminar on the reduction of housing costs in Amman, Prince Hassan said that urban housing plans are concentrated in a limited area, ignoring some 70 per cent of the Kingdom's lands which are considered to be remote. "These regions include the badia areas which form parts of the Kingdom's various governorates."

Prince Hassan criticised existing plans for building housing units west of the city of Zarqa towards Amman and said plans should rather be concentrated on setting up model villages in other areas that are sparsely populated at present.

Prince Hassan also urged the municipal councils around Karak

to take into account current plans for building the new city of Karak and Al Karak Hospital outside the existing city; and urged these councils to coordinate their plans.

"Departments and agencies responsible for housing projects, including the Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, ought to adopt comprehensive plans that take into account the seminar's recommendations and move towards new building units in remote regions," Prince Hassan said.

He urged various ministries to involve Jordanian youth in building and maintaining housing projects; and urged all departments concerned to speed up work on the national building code.

Locally-produced building materials should be encouraged so that the country can curtail imports under the present circumstances, the Prince urged.

The seminar was opened here last Monday by Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh, who said there was urgent need to build low cost housing units for families with limited income.

Zawaideh told the opening session that the Kingdom was facing a real challenge in the coming two decades to ensure sufficient homes for all people at the lowest possible cost.

A study on housing in Jordan, he said, has revealed the need of 430,000 new housing units between now and the year 2006.

A total of 17 working papers were reviewed at the meeting which was attended by engineers, representatives of various housing and real estate offices, and other organisations. The seminar was organised by the Housing Corporation in conjunction with the Royal Scientific Society.

Change conference site, Dajani urges British travel agents

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) has strongly protested to the British Tourism Authority (BTA) over a planned meeting by the British Travel and Tourist Association in the occupied city of Jerusalem in the coming month.

AACO Secretary General Adli Dajani sent a cable of protest to the BTA director stressing that the Arab organisation considers this action "untenable and contrary to the spirit of the world community."

Dajani referred to the present situation in the occupied Arab lands and Israel's "suppression of the human rights of the Palesti-



Adli Dajani

Jerusalem would be tantamount to condoning "the atrocities perpetrated on the Palestinian nation."

Dajani said that the British Tourism Authority was supposed to represent international leadership in bridging the wide gaps in social, economic and political understanding between the Third World and industrialised nations.

Yet, he said, the decision to hold the conference in Jerusalem would "serve as a stamp of approval to other organisations to violate the sacred territorial and human rights of the indigenous Palestinian people."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Book exhibition at the Khansa Secondary School in Madaba.
- ★ Photo exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Bait Al 'Arabi," by Hana Sadik Beraudo, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Sonia Delaunay, at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Book exhibition: "Individual, Sport and Olympic Games," at the Deanship of Students Affairs, Yarmouk University.
- ★ Children's book exhibition, at the Women's Cultural, Social and Sports Club, Amman.
- ★ Exhibition: Photographs and maps of archaeological sites, at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Social Security Corporation exhibits books, charts bulletins and reports on its activities, at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ A paintings exhibition by Alia Al Shanti Ammura, at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, Jabal Amman — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Sudanese artist Mohammad Khalil, at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel — 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

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Al Bait Al Arabi — An exhibition with a very specific message

By Mariam Shahin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition aptly entitled "the Arab home" a look at the past "Al Bait Al Arabi" being held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) is much more than just another presentation of Arab antiquities; it is an exhibition with a very specific message. Industries and local production in the Arab World were once capable of furnishing homes with all necessary household utensils, essential furniture and ornaments for decoration.

"We, in the Arab World, have moved backwards, in this century on an industrial production level," says Hana Sadeq Beraudo, who is exhibiting her own collection of household articles and furniture. Beraudo, an Iraqi, laments what she sees as an increasing trend in the Arab World to favour foreign products.

"At one point in time the Arab World was relatively self-sufficient, with industries producing furniture, clothing, household utensils and decorative items," she says. "But now, we import everything (and) our craftsmen and traders are out of work because the people in the Arab World have stopped buying their goods. Culturally, everything we import is quiet foreign to us."

To some degree all cultures are mixing and there is an interna-

lisation of certain ways of dressing, decorating an furnishing homes. However, we have abandoned our traditions almost completely. Traditional furniture and home decorations have become museum pieces. People don't think of fusing the old with the new."

In an interview with the Jordan Times on the fringes of the exhibition, which opened Tuesday, Beraudo also said she saw a willingness on the part of the Arabs, Jordanians included, to pay astronomical prices for foreign-made goods, and on the other hand their relative reluctance when it comes to paying good prices for locally produced goods.

"Only a few are willing to pay a large amount of money for a chest of drawers inlaid with mother-of-pearl but they will pay more for a Chinese inlaid chest or a marble table from Italy," according to the designer from Baghdad.

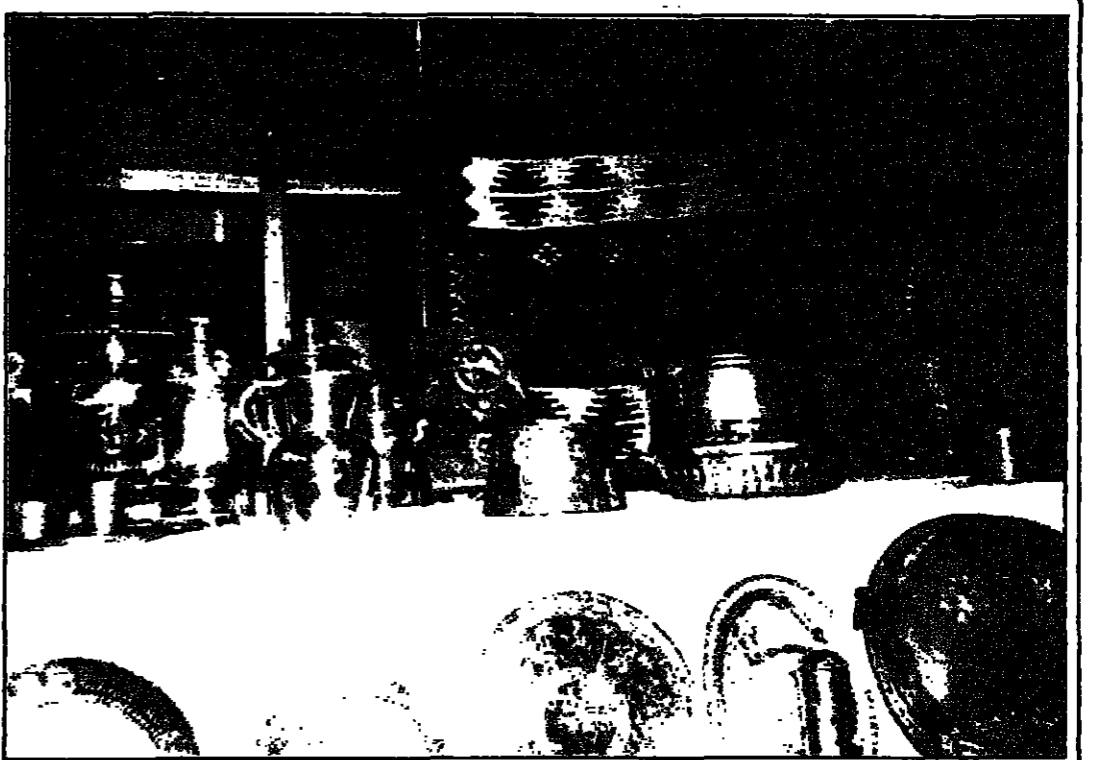
The exhibition includes a large variety of elaborate kitchen utensils and ceramic cooking pans imported from Europe at what Beraudo describes as "exorbitant prices," as well as brass pots and pans which are being used extensively in modern kitchens. Beautiful glass kitchen jars and bowls are artistically displayed as well.

Among the bathroom items on display are silver-decorated bath-

ing garments, silver containers, slippers, silver kohl containers, silver rosewater containers, mirrors, a silver-covered pumice stone and a decorated scrubbing towel, which were once part of the traditional bridal dowry in the Arab World.

Furniture made from oak, walnut and olive wood, including an elevated canopied bed, are furniture designs that were "new" and "original" for many of those present at the opening of the exhibition Tuesday afternoon. Beraudo, who broke her leg the day prior to the opening, came on crutches and commented with a smile that it was strange that Arabs should see objects that were part of most Arab homes in the not too distant past as new and original. "I guess that means the people liked the exhibit," she said.

The message Beraudo wants to spread is that despite the obvious difficulties in reviving local industries it is in the best interests of every Arab country and its citizens to increase their self-sufficiency. "We once produced practical, economically viable, and aesthetic products. Surely, we can do it again. Once our culture is lost, it will be most difficult to revive it. Unfortunately most people don't realise that we are running out of times," Beraudo told local and foreign reporters at



Some of the brass utensils on display at the Royal Cultural Centre

the opening.

"The Arab citizen, as an individual, must take the initiative to demand, i.e. a handmade gold or silver bracelet, or a silver tea set from a local craftsman instead of buying one for the same price or more from France or Germany," she remarked.

The "unreasonable" amount of goods from outside the Arab World is something that she views as very sad, and somehow self-

defeating. She hastily added that her suggestions were not to imply that imports per se are bad but just an emphasis that there were a potential for home industries if properly encouraged.

"According to the available market, production should start up, not excluding the possibility of exporting, of course," she said. The reconstruction of post-war Iraq is one major project in which

Arab industries will have a chance to produce and supply essential materials, if they take their queue on time, Beraudo believes.

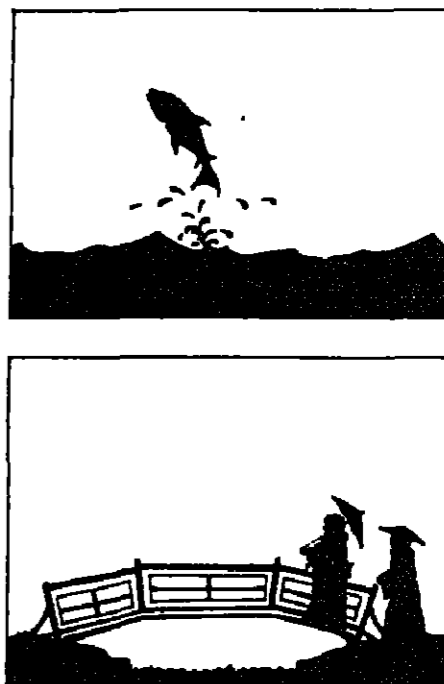
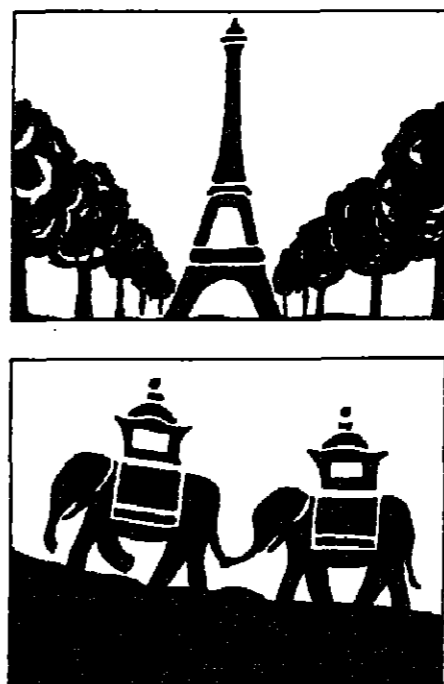
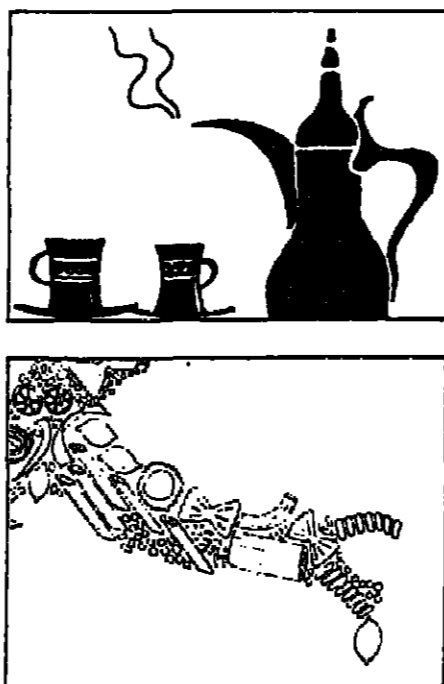
The exhibition, which was opened under the patronage of Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri and organised in cooperation with the Iraqi embassy in Amman, will remain open till Oct. 23.

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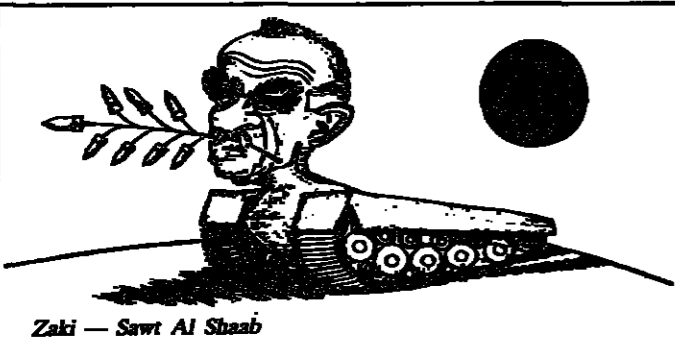
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A worthy report

AS THE Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI), the high-level body of 29 eminent personalities set up in 1983 to examine a wide range of humanitarian issues, has just concluded its work and submitted its final report. Special gratitude goes to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan from all of us in Jordan and the rest of the developing world. Not only did Prince Hassan co-chair the Commission's meetings over the past four years with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and provide much of its inspiration and motivation, he also spoke a language hitherto unspoken on behalf of the Arab countries and the developing world.

It was Prince Hassan's speech before the United Nations General Assembly in 1981, calling for international action to address the principal humanitarian issues confronting humanity, that prompted the international community to address these issues through the Independent Commission. Close scrutiny of the final report of the ICHI reveals the depth of the concern of the Commission and the full dimensions of the relevant humanitarian issues. Some of the key recommendations embodied in the final report call for the establishment of special ministries in developed and developing countries alike to deal with humanitarian problems in the political, economic and security domains. The report also calls for adequate budgetary allocations to human rights and to education in the humanities.

And in his final remarks to the Commission, Prince Hassan pointed to oppression, injustice and inequality as among the principal causes of political and economic instability — a diagnosis that is insufficiently articulated. We would like to express public thanks to Prince Hassan, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and all the other members of the Commission for lending a forceful and persuasive hand in the struggle to ameliorate the human environment, and for making this objective the theme of the Commission's work and its final report.



Zaki — Sawt Al Shaab

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

FOR the third consecutive day Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday commented on Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's televised statement last Sunday in which he tackled the monetary, financial and economic situation in the Kingdom. There was no fear of any kind, nor was there any hesitation in behalf of the prime minister in explaining the real situation in the country and Rifai's words were loud and clear and addressed to all citizens, the paper noted. It said that Rifai's open statement about the economic situation and the need to follow certain austere measures to deal with its consequences came as no surprise to the majority of citizens who are loyal to their country and dedicated to serving their nation, the paper noted. The majority of people realise the great achievements the Kingdom realised in social, economic and services fields, and they also realise that what we are facing today is linked to situations that had affected the whole region and the world at large, the paper added. But, it said, that given a wise leadership the Jordanian people are capable of confronting the challenge and resuming their march towards progress with greater self-confidence.

Al Dstour chose another topic, that of the Islamic culture and Prince Hassan's address at the opening session of the international seminar on Islamic art. The paper quoted the Prince as saying that Jordan was the first Arab country to give due concern to Islamic heritage by establishing the Aal Al Bait Foundation; and added that Jordan's efforts in this field have been remarkable and the country's endeavours to highlight Islamic art and culture are to be commended. The paper echoed Prince Hassan's call on universities and research centres to expand the basis of Islamic culture by helping to collect and preserve manuscripts and translating and distributing Islamic-related materials. Such practice, the paper pointed out, is bound to help remove any distortion about Islam and to present a brighter picture about this religion to the outside world.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented Wednesday on the recent government economic measures and said they were necessary in view of the challenge the Kingdom is facing at the moment. The paper described the measures as an inevitable operation to "amputate what has become dangerous in the body when no other available medicine was effective in dealing with the situation." The paper strongly attacked speculators in money markets and those who it said had been in the habit of tampering with prices to accumulate quick fortunes and described them as a handful of outlaws who have no respect for their country and their countrymen.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARY

Stop the profiteers

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily tackles the negative effect of a high exchange rate in foreign currency on imported medicines, and urges the Ministry of Health to interfere and prevent any manipulation or abuse of pharmacy practice in this respect. Salah Abdul Samad said it should be understood that medicines for patients are not luxury goods on which restrictions can be imposed nor should these goods be left under the mercy of importers who can fix any price to them in a manner that will ensure the greater margin of profit. The importers ought to take their share in bearing the results of high foreign currency exchange rates; and suffice themselves with a certain margin of profit rather than showing greediness, the writer notes. He urges the Ministry of Health to take a drastic measure in this connection, because he says some pharmacists might be tempted to refrain from importing certain types of medicines that would not give them a good profit margin.

Alarm bills ring for planet Earth

AT LEAST one good could come from this year's unprecedented series of natural disasters. Concern for the future of the global environment is becoming one of the foremost issues of the international community's agenda.

It was a common thread running through speeches by heads of state or foreign ministers, including those of major powers, at the current session of the United Nations' General Assembly. There is also a growing feeling that the world body should lead and coordinate efforts to protect the wellbeing of planet Earth.

While some U.N. offshoots, notably the Environment Programme (UNEP), would obviously be in the vanguard of such a campaign, others would also play their part. A major specialised agency, the World Bank, has already accepted that there is an environmental dimension to its work.

Thus, the unique environment of Madagascar — an 80 million-year heritage of some of the world's rarest plant and animal life — is to get a new lease of life in a protection programme that casts the Bank in a new role as a sponsor of conservation.

Hitherto, not best known, perhaps, for its interest in world environmental problems, and often criticised for having unwittingly financed ecological disasters, the Bank now joins forces with the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) in helping to save the remaining treasures of Africa's largest offshore island.

It promises to be a remarkable marriage between the seemingly divergent forces of conservation and high finance. In a sense it is an enforced alliance, brought about by the growing realisation that effective long-term development programmes cannot be achieved without corresponding measures to protect global resources.

The WWF Vice-President, Russell Mittermeier, says conservationists are now getting the message that they must work with the international aid and development agencies, both to prevent a repetition of past developmental errors and to provide resources necessary for conservation in the long term.



Watch on the Rhine

Madagascar is only the first of what could be a series of conservation plans backed by the Bank. In this instance, the Bank has asked the WWF for help in drawing up an "Environmental Action Plan for Madagascar", covering the next two decades.

The plan aims to stimulate public awareness of the problems, improve environmental management in existing protection areas and set up new ones, and to encourage sustainable development.

The plan to save Madagascar from an ecological disaster comes not a moment too soon. As in many tropical countries, the main threat arises from the continued destruction of rainforests, either in pursuit of commercial profits or short-term farming goals. Forests once covered more

than four-fifths of Madagascar, the world's fifth largest island. Now they account for less than 15 per cent of the land area. The rate of forest clearance by farmers seeking pasture land is such that by the end of the century few trees will remain.

The tragedy is that Madagascar's rainforests provide the habitat of some unique flora and wildlife. The island is believed to have separated from the African landmass around 80 million years ago, resulting in a totally independent evolutionary process.

Brazil is also likely to benefit from the World Bank's new mission as a protector on the environment.

A target date of 1990 has been set for completion of negotiations between the Bank, the Brazilian government and conservation organisations, aimed at preserving the country's Atlantic forest region, currently designated a top priority conservation area.

Again the need for an infusion of international resources is critical. Reports from Brazil suggest that the Amazon forest was burning beyond control as thousands of man-made fires ravaged woodlands, bush and scrub to clear areas for farming.

Last year more than 200,000 square kilometres, about half of its virgin forest, was razed, and this represented a fourfold increase. But his year the toll could be one-third greater — Lion Features.

Murphy: U.S. remains committed to the Middle East peace process

The following are excerpts from a testimony made by Richard Murphy, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, October 13, 1988.

IRAN'S long-awaited acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 in mid-July set the stage for the ceasefire which ultimately took effect on August 20.

As part of the ceasefire agreement, a U.N. observer force was established to patrol the ceasefire lines and report violations.

The peace negotiations which are under way in Geneva and New York under U.N. auspices have been predictably difficult, with both sides staking out tough initial positions. Let me take a moment to review the issues with you. Formally, the negotiations are over the terms of Resolution 598, which provide a comprehensive framework for a just and durable settlement. Iraq argues that to be lasting, a ceasefire should provide for freedom of navigation in the Gulf and through the Strait of Hormuz for both sides. Iran counters that while a state of belligerency exists, it has the right under international law to visit and search shipping. With regard to the Shatt Al Arab, the waterway which divides the two countries, Iraq seeks commitments from Iran that it will cooperate in efforts by the United Nations to clear the Shatt for use by both states.

In general, our policy has been to provide all possible support to the Secretary General and his special representative, the respected Swedish diplomat Ambassador Jan Eliasson, while avoiding being drawn into the middle of the details of negotiations to which the United States is not a party. The permanent members of the Security Council have recently issued a statement reaffirming their full support for the U.N. negotiations. In the final analysis, only the Iranian and Iraqi governments can make the hard political choices which must be made if the negotiations are to make progress.

The Middle East peace process is witnessing significant events. The announcement by Jordan that it would end administrative and legal ties with the West Bank needs to be assessed carefully.

There is no question of Jordan's continued commitment to the peace process. At the same time, Jordan has challenged other parties, primarily the PLO but Israel as well, to take the difficult decisions required for peace. Jordan emphasised an important element in the Middle East equation. Jordan is not Palestine. But also reaffirmed that geography and history dictate that Jordan will play an important part as the peace process unfolds.

In Israel, there is significant debate on the peace process, with the election campaign now in full swing. Israelis are weighing significant issues related to the role of Palestinians in the peace process, and the centrality of the land for peace concept in the negotiations.

Our objective in the Middle East remains a comprehensive peace through a process of direct negotiations. On September 16, Secretary of State George Shultz described the administration's approach to Middle East peace-making in an important address before the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The plan we put forward continues to represent assumptions and realities about the peace process that have not changed. There is a need to structure a negotiating framework based on a realistic view of the situation. Our initiative provides that framework as it seeks to dispel certain illusions which cannot be reconciled with the realities of the situation in the region.

Our initiative takes these realities into account — realities which will not change — regardless of decisions or actions taken by individual parties. Because they reflect those realities, the fundamental elements of our initiative remain valid:

- The need for a comprehensive peace;
- The requirement that negotiations be based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, including the principle of the exchange of territory for peace;
- The essentiality of security for all states in the region;
- The importance of realising the legitimate rights — including the political rights — of the Palestinian people; and;
- The indispensability of an initial agreement on transitional arrangements, tightly linked to an early start of negotiations on a final settlement.

We will remain active and engaged in the peace process over the balance of the year and into the next. U.S. Middle East policy will continue to reflect the fundamental continuity and bipartisanship of our approach. Our commitment to peace and to the process needed to achieve peace remains solid.

Future challenges

Perhaps of greatest interest to this subcommittee is the challenge of restoring momentum to the peace process. The process is currently on hold, but is certainly not exhausted. The investment of time and effort by the Secretary

— with three visits to the region this year alone — has yielded some dividends, but we have much more work to do.

Above all we need to create an environment of moderation that will encourage all sides to move closer to the negotiating table. The human costs of the intifada have been great for both Palestinians and Israelis and underscore the need for a political settlement. A further hardening of hearts is the last thing we want to see in Israel and in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians have experienced great economic losses, the destruction of crops and houses, the loss of almost an entire school year, and a general disruption of daily life. The uprising has also undermined some of the economic strides Israel has made in the past several years.

Both sides need to make accommodations. The Palestinians need to put together a political programme they can bring to the negotiating table. They must realise that violence diverts them from their goals. They must act responsibly, putting an end to empty posturing, slogans of rejection, and inflated dreams.

Israel's attempts to end the intifada have not been effective; often they have resulted in increases in the number of casualties and appear to have reinforced the belief shared by many Palestinians that there is no alternative to resisting the occupation in the streets of the West Bank and Gaza. Israel needs to develop a positive programme for dealing with the uprising. An exclusive reliance on force, deportations, and detentions is not the answer. We urge Israel to seek opportunities to develop an environment of moderation in the West Bank and Gaza.

OPEN FORUM

Intifada

*Pain, grief and sorrow mingled with tears
Accompanied our patience for forty long years
Though by nature we are proud
We often sacrificed our principles and bowed
To our oppressive occupiers
Who continuously added fuel to the fire*

*We believed that time was on our side
So we took everything within our stride
Condescending and giving in to pride
Attempting to live peacefully side by side
Until we felt Israeli apartheid
Which gnawed and gnawed until it reached our spleen
Seeing red we then saw green with ardour more than keen*

*It was time to go ahead and never to despair
Our patience was exhausted and our lives were full of care
We asked ourselves "What do we have to lose?"
This is our homeland and it is time for us to fuse*

*Our natures are very individualistic
But we realised we have to be realistic
Time may be on our side it is true
Though too often we definitely would misconstrue
Those phrases bandied about by optimists
With minds shrouded in clouds of mist
While prudently maintaining a false sense of stability
Despite the great gap in credibility*

*We knew we had to help ourselves alone
And try to make our situation known
In December of 1987, 40 years too late
Our frustrations broke loose and suffering ensued
And we vowed we would fight to the end without becoming unglued
The Intifada is not an easy road to take
For our lives are at stake
But we must respond for our children's sake.*

Peggie Abujaiber

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CBJ intervenes, stabilises dinar exchange rates

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Wednesday intervened in the local exchange market to prop up the Jordan dinar from Tuesday's record low of 530 fils to 470 fils, dealers told the Jordan Times.

The CBJ set its dollar exchange rate at 443/445 fils Wednesday, slightly down from Tuesday's 441/443, and told bankers to deal closer to the official rate.

Deputy CBJ Governor Maher Shukri was quoted Wednesday as saying that the dinar's exchange rate will be stabilised over the coming three weeks at the latest. He said the market would "stabilise itself by abolishing the gap between the official rate and that of the open market."

Lebanese lira sinks

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese lira lost eight per cent of its international value against the dollar Wednesday as Lebanon's deepening political crisis panicked the market.

At midday the central bank closed the pound at 508.00/512.00 compared with Tuesday's 470.00/474.00.

Anxious Lebanese rushed to buy dollars after parliament Tuesday failed to elect a successor for house speaker Hussein Husseini, leaving the legislature virtually paralysed.

Shukri told Sawt Al Shaab that as a result of the CBJ measures, commercial banks now have to "depend on themselves for their foreign currency needs."

He said the CBJ left the dinar to slide to the current rates so as to help the market balance itself.

Bankers told the Jordan Times that commercial banks have been instructed to stop financing letters of credit for certain imports and that other imports have been restricted by instructions requiring a margin of 30 per cent of the letter of credit's value in cash from the open market before financing is allowed.

Importers have immediately hiked their prices, in some cases disproportionately with the dinar's depreciation against foreign currencies.

Shukri told Sawt Al Shaab that "anyone who buys dollars at 450 fils or more will lose," in an apparent attempt to halt the slide in the Jordanian currency.

A dealer at Petra Bank confirmed Wednesday that upon a request from the CBJ, his bank offered to sell \$12 million in cash for 460 fils a dollar, but that nobody was buying.

The CBJ's move Wednesday has apparently calmed the market, but bankers were skeptical as to whether the CBJ was determined to protect the 450 fils rate.

"The central bank sees this rate as adequate, one banker, who asked not to be identified, said. "However, it will all depend on whether demand can be effectively reduced."

He pointed out that by telling importers to get their own foreign exchange to finance imports, "they are, in fact, aggravating the supply and demand imbalance in the open market." (See industrialists' reaction on this page.)

Car dealers told the Jordan Times that banks have refused to finance new letters of credit for their imports, either upon instructions from the central bank or upon their own discretion.

The government has pledged to squeeze imports of luxury goods, in an effort to reach a balance between the Kingdom's foreign exchange outflow and revenues.

A dealer quoted by Reuters said banks had to finance a total of JD 200 million worth of letters of credit over the next three months.

Demand for foreign exchange would ease after that because the dinar's effective devaluation would discourage imports, he said.

The dinar has lost almost 15 per cent of its dollar value since the central bank aligned its rates with the open market Saturday, and nearly 26 per cent this year.

In his interview with Sawt Al Shaab, Shukri said the dinar's recent instability was caused by speculation as well as "gambling by citizens and not moneychangers, with the aim of making quick profits."

"It is regrettable that small gamblers are more likely to be losers because they enter the market late and buy in high prices and they come out late, selling in low prices, while professional gamblers know when to enter and when to get out."

Sunday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said in a televised interview that the government planned to squeeze public spending and rechannel investments towards productive projects to protect the Kingdom's revenues of foreign

exchange.

In a comment on the anticipated sharp reduction in imports Al Dustour economic columnist Abdullah Malki said this would lead to a hike in the prices of imported goods, possible higher than the hike in the value of foreign currencies against the dinar.

"The basic positive impact from this is that austerity will impose itself on the Jordanian consumer and will lead to encouraging and accelerating the transformation to local production."

He said the negative impact would be "a strengthening of inflationary forces," adding that "managers of the economy must start dealing immediately and very seriously with the possibilities of inflation, and not to wait until the situation worsens, so that we will not have to improvise solutions."

Jordanian industrialists to keep prices, quality unchanged despite constraints

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — Industrialists Wednesday urged the government to stabilise the Jordan dinar's exchange rate, freeze imports of luxury goods and allow

them a mark up on their products.

In a meeting held at the Amman Chamber of Industry, industrialists discussed the impact of the dinar's adjusted rate and called on the government to fix a special exchange rate to protect industrialists.

They said that some industries imported raw material worth up to 60 per cent of the value of their products and that they had no choice but to raise their prices to cover the difference in the exchange rate.

They complained that commercial banks were asking them to

deposit 30 per cent of the value of their letters of credit for raw material in foreign currency cash with the central bank before agreeing to finance these imports. They said this contradicted the government's policy to ease demand for foreign exchange and pressure on the dinar in the open market.

Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan called on industrialists to cooperate and "protect the country's economic achievements in the face of the present monetary instability resulting from the pressures on the Jordan dinar."

He told nearly 150 industrialists that the situation "required purposeful and unwavering adherence to our commitments as members of the industrial sector, to show relentless efforts and genuine capabilities to assist in overcoming the present difficulty."

"The Jordanian industry," he declared, "is an invaluable trust in our hands, and the new gov-

ernment measures, severe as they are, should not deter our industrial activities."

He continued: "We fully understand the reasons which compelled our government to resort to flexibility in the Jordan dinar's exchange rate. The hardship involved is understandable, and we must adapt to it so long as it lasts. We are duty bound to bear our share of the present difficulties, and to interpret the government measures in a positive perspective."

According to a press release by the chamber, there was unanimous agreement that adaptation, though difficult, was unavoidable.

"The more they cooperate in the implementation of these measures, the less is the strain which will affect the economy. This is the time we should show flexibility and courage," the press release said.

It said industrialists responded favourably to President Abu Hassan's appeal to avoid as much as possible raising prices while adhering to the prerequisites of quality and supply in the market.

Abu Hassan asked industrialists to name a work committee composed of the presidents of the consultative sectorial committees at the chamber and other industrialists to meet and draft recommendations which he and his colleagues in the board of directors could take up with the responsible authorities.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

	Wednesday rates		Market rates	
	Central Bank official rates		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	443.0	445.0	451.3	471.3
Pound Sterling	774.9	778.8	783.1	816.8
Deutschemark	244.8	246.0	254.1	265.8
Swiss franc	289.6	291.0	291.2	300.0
French franc	71.8	72.2	71.6	74.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	348.4	350.1	—	—
Dutch guilder	216.7	217.8	—	—
Swedish crown	71.1	71.5	71.1	71.5
Italian lira (for 100)	32.9	33.1	—	—
Belgian franc (for 10)	116.3	116.9	—	—
Saudi riyal	—	—	119.6	126.4
Lebanese lira	—	—	—	—
Syrian lira	—	—	10.8	11.6
Iraqi dinar	—	—	286.3	305.0
Kuwaiti dinar	—	—	1588.3	1625.5
Egyptian pound (new)	—	—	195.0	206.7
Egyptian pound (old)	—	—	185.0	196.7
UAE dirham	—	—	119.9	124.4
Qatari riyal	—	—	121.7	124.6
Omani riyal	—	—	1157.1	1166.9
Bahraini dinar	—	—	1181.5	1203.0

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Oct. 19, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	1809909	JD 2787044	1711
Top three companies:			
Arab Bank Limited	2380	JD 329440	96
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	169470	JD 243770	157
Jordan Cement Factories	172936	JD 241961	97
Parallel market:	39308	JD 16478	—
Development bonds:	500	JD 5101	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	643001
Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662558
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	846171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	721881		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7495/7505	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2005/15	Canadian dollar	
	1.8085/95	Deutschemarks	
	2.0385/95	Dutch guilders	
	1.5273/80	Swiss francs	
	37.87/90	Belgian francs	
	6.1675/1725	French francs	
	1345/1346	Italian lire	
	127.10/20	Japanese yen	
	6.2255/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.6800/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.9670/9720	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	410.60/411.10	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed higher as a positive balance of payments figure boosted industrial stocks. The All Ordinaries index rose 6.8 to 1,578.4.

TOKYO — Prices gained on the anniversary of the 1987 crash but trading was slow. The Nikkei index rose 151.69 to 27,293.67.

HONG KONG — Market closed for holiday.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed marginally higher across the board for the third day but off their early highs in moderate trading. The Straits Times Industrial index rose 3.07 to 1,019.16.

BOMBAY — Trading halted after reports that a member was among the 130 people killed in a plane crash in western India. The exchange will be closed Thursday for a religious holiday.

FRANKFURT — Shares continued to rally in active trading, closing just off a 1988 high for the second straight day. The DAX index rose 5.58 to 1,304.37.

ZURICH — Swiss shares marked the anniversary of the crash by closing at the year's high. Prices firmed across the board, pushing the All Share Swiss index up 6.8 to 930.2.

PARIS — Prices were up strongly at mid-session in active trading, boosted by the spate of takeover bids in major world markets. **LONDON —** U.K. equities stood firm in late trading with investors showing little reaction to the anniversary. The FTSE 100 index at 1430 GMT was up 10.4 at 1,867.4.

NEW YORK — Stocks were lower at midday, giving up small early gains. They fell as oil prices, an inflation indicator, rose. The Dow was down eight at 2,152.

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Interested please call 670079

INVITATION FOR BIDS CONTRACT NO. 111/88/CENTRAL AQABA SEWERAGE PROJECT STAGE II CONTRACT CODE AQ-S2

- The Government Tenders Directorate invites Jordanian contractors who are classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as first class (water and sewerage + electromechanical + building) or the joint venture of the three classifications, and contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan/China (or any joint venture between local contractors with the above classifications and the said foreign contractors) to submit their technical and financial offers for the said tender.
- The project consists of the supply, installation and operation of effluent the pumping station for irrigation and sand stabilisation for facultative, seepage ponds slopes, of Aqaba wastewater treatment plant and the supply, installation and operation of pumping station for Royal Palaces in Aqaba.
- A prebid conference will be held at the Water Authority's main building in Amman on 31/10/1988 at 0900 Jordan local time.
- Tender documents are available at the Tenders Division/Water Authority's main building in Amman against the payment of a non-refundable sum of JD 200.
- Bids due not later than 1330 Jordan local time on Wednesday 16/11/1988 at the office of the Director/ Government Tenders Directorate.

Director
Government Tenders Directorate

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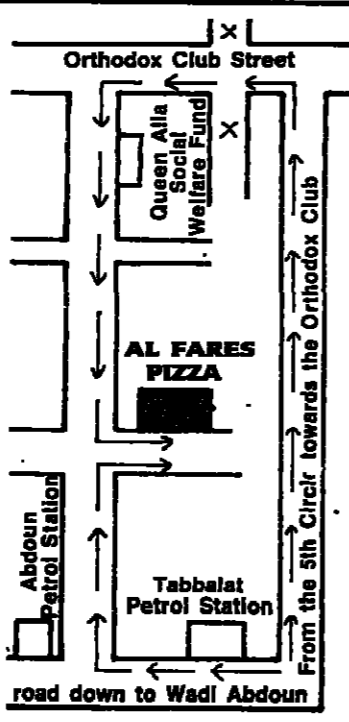
Are pleased to offer a surprise to its clientele... as of Thursday, Oct. 20, 1988, when they will select their favourite foods from a Al Fares Buffet which offers all varieties from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Roast beef, mashed potatoes, chicken musakhan, fried chicken, onion soup, a la menu soup, lasagna, pizza, mixed vegetables, variety of salads.

at JD 2 for adults and JD 1 for children under 12

As of Friday Oct. 21, 1988, and every Friday and Saturday each week we have a breakfast buffet from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Cheese omelette, vegetable omelette and plain omelette, luncheon, mortadella with cheese, French toast, hot dogs, variety of fried eggs.

JD 1.5 for adults and JD 0.750 for children under 12.



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Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

H.O.T.S

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Dodgers defeat Athletics at last

OAKLAND (AP) — Mark McGwire hit a solo home run with one out in the ninth inning as the Oakland Athletics finally broke through and beat Los Angeles 2-1 Tuesday night, cutting the Dodgers' lead in the world series to 2-1.

McGwire fouled off three 2-2 pitches before lining a drive over the left-center field for his first hit in 10 world series at-bats.

The Dodgers blew a chance to break the game open in the sixth when they loaded the bases with no outs but failed to score.

Danny Heep's double, John Shelby's single and a walk to Mike Davis finished Bob Welch, who had never lasted beyond 2-3 innings in four postseason starts.

The Oakland bullpen, the most effective in the majors this year, did its job. Left-hander Greg Cadaret stopped lefty Mike Scioscia on a foul pop and right-hander Gene Nelson got left Hamilton on a force at the plate and Alfredo Griffin on a grounder to first.

Kirk Gibson, the Dodgers' crucial pinch hitter in game 1, was not employed this time, even though Los Angeles was at the bottom of its batting order.

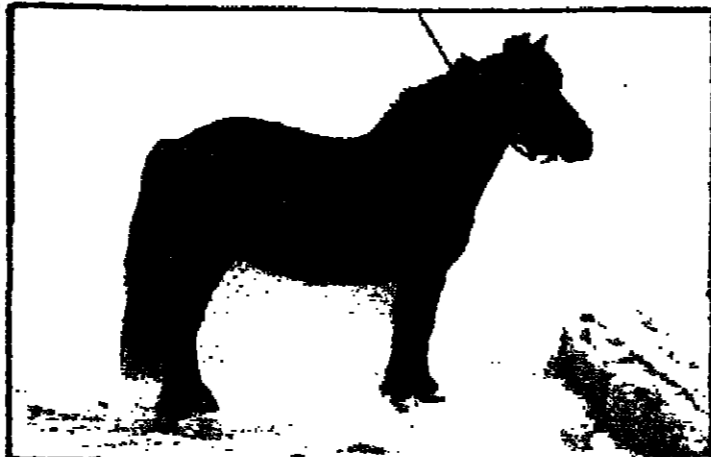
The Dodgers' injury problems worsened as starting pitcher John Tudor and right fielder Mike Marshall each were forced from the game. Tudor, bothered by hip and elbow problems throughout the season, left in the second inning with more arm trouble, and Marshall's weak back stiffened up in the third.

Welch and Tudor, big winners who had done poorly in post-season games, each started out well on nine days' rest. Tudor got all four batters he faced before Tim Lincecum took over in the second.

Welch won 115 games in 10 seasons with Los Angeles and became the second pitcher in history to start a world series game against the team he played for the previous year. Bob Ojeda was the other, pitching in 1986 for the New York Mets against Boston.

Welch gave up a leadoff single to Steve Sax and struck out the next four batters. He fanned eight in four innings and took a 1-0 lead into the fifth before Los Angeles scored.

Hamilton singled for his first hit in 10 series at-bats, advanced on Griffin's sacrifice and came home on Franklin Stubbs' two-out double.



One of the ponies at the Pony Club

Pony show set for Oct. 21

AMMAN (J.T.) — Begun only a year ago, the Pony Club at the Arabian Horse Club is now attended by over 35 keen young riders. Their ages range from two and a half up to ten years.

The children attend weekly sessions, each rider being placed in a class that suits their ability.

During the last month the children, riding on the Club's Shetland ponies, have been getting ready for their first show of the season which will be held this Friday, Oct. 21 at 3 p.m.

The younger children, who have been taught by Jane Misri, Joan Gardiner and Vickie Knyall will give a demonstration of their skills which includes, (aided by

grooms), galloping and hopping over small jumps.

The older children who, taught by Mrs. Gaby Seif, can now ride alone, will perform some basic dressage movements.

"The idea behind the show," one of the organisers told the Jordan Times, "is to give these young riders an opportunity to participate in a riding activity which will encourage them and give them greater confidence."

The show will be held at the Arabian Horse Club, situated about 15 minutes drive from the Seventh Circle on the Airport road. An entrance fee of JD 1 will be charged.

Paralympics continue despite protests

SEOUL (AP) — Two swimmers from the United States and Denmark urged athletes from 60 nations to join them Wednesday in protesting the deletion of 156 events from the international Paralympic games.

A letter sent to team managers asked some 4,000 athletes and coaches participating in the games for the disabled to meet at the Olympic swimming and diving pools after competition Wednesday to stage a silent protest.

Participants were invited to swim or hold hands alongside the pool for 30 minutes.

U.S. swimmer Georgina Biter, 26, said the protest was the only way disabled athletes could express "feelings of frustration and rage at the deletions of events, which meant some athletes could not compete."

Biter, a quadriplegic, and Danish swimmer Kim Anderson signed the letter.

The cancelled events primarily

were competitions between individuals in track and field, swimming, judo, shooting, and archery.

The Paralympic games are held every four years to roughly coincide with the Olympic games and are the largest worldwide competitions for disabled athletes. The Seoul Paralympic games are the largest ever held.

After three days of competition, West Germany led with 17 gold medals, followed by Canada with 15, the United States with 14 and South Korea with 12.

Britain, France and the Netherlands each had nine gold medals. Sweden, Japan and Denmark had eight gold medals each, followed by Poland with six, and Australia, Italy and China with five each.

Bromann blamed the deletions on a complicated and outdated classification system used to place athletes in events with similarly disabled competitors.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation
FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a perfect day to wind up the affairs you have started within the last few days. Say how you feel. Then buy some flowers for the home and a loved one, and prepare for a lovely evening.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Do whatever you can to get your creative talents across today. This will promise success in business and praise from your associates.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Look over mortgage contracts, and finalize career decisions to be made in the morning. Make up with your partner, and come to a compromise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) This is a good time to improve your monetary situation by starting that financial planning course. Seek the advice of a wise associate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Put into effect whatever plans you have to increase your financial stability. Success is assured through work with others.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are beaming today and attract a lot of attention. Balance the needs of your family and pet. The boss is on your side today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You feel the need for privacy so you can

make long-range plans for yourself and work. A lonely friend would appreciate a visit from you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An influential friend can offer you some kind of advice to improve your

home and love life. Be ready to make some personal changes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Demands of business and the public occupy the center stage today. You need to trade some of your work with your partner this afternoon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The wanderlust of your mind dominates today as you find the need to expand your horizons. You have the resources to do it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You now make the time to think about and start acting on something that is very important to your mate. Enjoy this evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get together with as many interesting people as possible. Your work, and others can enhance each other's efforts and ensure success.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make a special point to talk with fellow workers about improvements to their environment. Your health is good today, but don't overeat.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The day begins with an extravagant mood that may encourage bad judgment. Inspiration and heightened sensitivity dominate, and the afternoon presents an opportunity for financial gain.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Analyze carefully any investment that seems too good to be true; it is. Inspirations to improve health and work are fruitful.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can use your overabundance of energy to clean house. Your budget won't allow redecorating, but a friend's gift adds grace to the home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be careful on the highway early in the morning. Luck is not with you. Those in authority are pleasantly disposed toward you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Today is not a good day to fund your hopes and dreams or lend money to co-workers. Money can come through an artistic endeavor.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be careful of your overemotional reaction to those in charge. It will tend to spoil your fun. A profitable real estate investment presents itself.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't let people take advantage of

your overemotional nature. Your keen powers of analysis help you understand your mate's goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your friends seem quite confused about their goals in life. They learn a great deal from your advice. You can profit from a message.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Emotional rather than critical analysis of facts from others about your abilities will cause trouble with superiors today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The morning is not a good time to travel unless you have no luggage to lose. A letter from afar brings you back to your roots.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It would be best not to invest any money this morning. It is better to pay attention to dreams that tell you of changing investments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) When your partner evaluates the natural artistic talents you have, he or she has the chance to form another opinion about you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your tendency to overwork interferes with your normal good judgment. It is important to understand where you are going professionally.

European soccer has busiest night of the season

LONDON (AP) — Nine of the Dutch soccer team that won the European championship return to the scene of their greatest triumph Wednesday to settle an old World Cup score. But injured striker Ruud Gullit will be one of the absent two.

Munich's spectacular Olympic stadium was the venue for The Netherlands' 2-0 triumph over the Soviet Union in the European championships in June.

On Wednesday, West Germany and The Netherlands meet again in World Cup action, this time in a group four qualifying match. On the busiest night of European international soccer action this season, 20 more teams will be treading the path towards the 1990 finals in Italy.

In another group four game Wales hosts Finland, Greece receives Denmark and Rumania visits Bulgaria in group one, Eng-

land hosts Sweden and Albania travels to Poland in group two, Austria goes to the Soviet Union and East Germany receives Iceland in group three, Scotland hosts Yugoslavia in group five, Northern Ireland visits Hungary in group six and Belgium hosts Switzerland and Luxembourg receives Czechoslovakia in group seven.

The other absentee from the Dutch line-up that won the European championship is the now retired Arnold Muhren. But nine other stars, including Gullit's Milan team-mate Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, will

return to Munich to face the Germans.

After a dismal performance in the European championships, England will want to bounce back with a victory over the Swedes at Wembley.

Three defeats in West Germany had a section of the English media calling for the head of manager Bobby Robson. England's soccer chiefs have stood by their beleaguered manager who has been given the task of taking the team to the World Cup finals.

Gary Lineker, one of the biggest England flops in the European championships, has recovered from a bout of hepatitis and says he is fitter than ever.

Top scorer in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, the Barcelona striker has been restricted to two full Spanish league games while he regains full fitness.

The last time Yugoslavia visited Hampden Park, Scotland posted a 6-1 victory. That was in an exhibition game four years ago, but Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh still believes that Ham-

mering gives his team a significant psychological advantage.

Belgium and Denmark are two sides who will be missing key players for different reasons.

Belgium's first choice goalie, Michel Preud'homme, broke his nose in a collision with team-mate Sefaan Demol during an exhibition match against Brazil last week. His place against Switzerland goes to Gilbert Bodart.

Denmark's versatile midfielder, Jan Molby, will be unable even to watch his country's game against Greece in Athens.

Molby, who plays for English champion Liverpool, is in a British jail having been sentenced Monday to three months imprisonment for reckless driving.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

British boxer asks 'where's Tyson'?

NEW YORK (R) — British boxer Frank Bruno, the forgotten man in the Mike Tyson-Robin Givens saga, arrived in New York Monday looking for a fight. He told reporters he wanted a guarantee the world heavyweight champion would still fight him December 17 in London at Wembley stadium and predicted he would win by a knockout.

Kasparov may lead in Iceland chess meet

REYKJAVIK (R) — Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov could regain a share of the lead in the world cup chess tournament after winning a slight advantage against Soviet rival Alexander Beljavsky in their 13th round game Tuesday. The game was adjourned after 62 moves with Kasparov holding a slightly better position in a rook and pawn endgame. A victory would bring Kasparov level with fellow Soviet grandmasters Mikhail Tal and Jan Hlivi in the \$100,000 tournament with four rounds left to play.

Pretoria to meet rugby administrators

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The government has summoned South African rugby administrators to Pretoria to explain their weekend talks with the black nationalist African National Congress (ANC). Transvaal rugby chief Louis Luyt said Tuesday members of the South African Rugby Board (SARB) were ordered to an urgent meeting with education minister F.W. de Klerk Wednesday. De Klerk, whose portfolio includes sport, condemned the weekend meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, at which Luyt and SARB president Danie Craven sought ANC support for a South African return to international competition.

Becker wins first match after absence

TOKYO (R) — West German Boris Becker, back after a six-week absence due to injury, recovered from a slow start to beat American Robert Seguso 6-4 6-3 in the first round of the \$627,500 Japan indoor tennis championships Tuesday.

Gretzky returns to Edmonton

EDMONTON (R) — Wayne Gretzky was back in the Northlands coliseum Tuesday but unlike the hundreds of other times he has entered the home of the Edmonton Oilers, it was not a happy occasion.

A nervous, frazzled-looking Gretzky returned to Edmonton to face bright television lights, a horde of media normally seen only during playoffs and, on Wednesday night, his former National Hockey League (NHL) teammates.

Gretzky, regarded by many as the greatest player in NHL history, was traded, along with Marty McSorley and Mike Krushelnyski, to Los Angeles in August for Jimmy Carson, Rookie Martin Gelfand and a series of first-round draft picks.

It was one of hockey's most shocking deals.

Gretzky held an hour-long news conference for a large group of the nearly 200 media accredited for Wednesday's game.

It will actually be the second time Gretzky will have played against the Oilers in Edmonton.

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THE BETTER HALF.

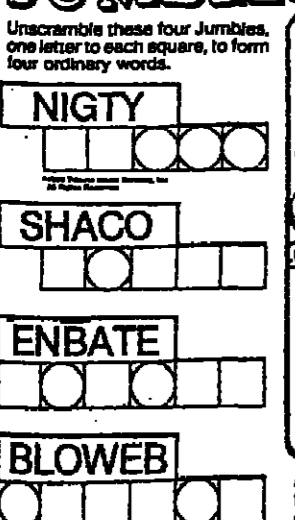
By Harris



"Hair transplants are too expensive, so I smeared glue on my head and stuck it behind the sofa!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



HOW PEOPLE SAW THINGS AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF ELECTRICITY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: IN A

Yesterday's Jumble: AMITY WRATH DENOTE SECOND

Answer: What those young history teachers did at their annual get-together—MADE "DATES"

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



EN BREF

La Vierge vue à Amman



Lina Qarabashi (photo Reuters)

Une vingtaine d'apparitions de la Vierge Marie, cinq crucifixions soudainement comme par télépathie, des croix marquées comme au fer rouge dans la peau: le cas de Lina Qarabashi, une Irakienne catholique de 20 ans, laisse perplexes médecins et religieux et attire des foules dans sa maison de djebel Weibdeh.

Linda dit avoir vu la Vierge pour la première fois le 7 octobre au Centre médical King Hussein, où elle se remettait d'une opération du pied gauche, atteint il y a 15 ans lors d'un accident de la route. "Il y avait une lumière au plafond et j'y ai vu la Vierge Marie qui pleurait", raconte-t-elle. Depuis, sa poitrine est barrée d'une grande croix rouge, qui, par moments la brûle et grossit. D'autres croix plus petites sont aussi apparues sous son oreille et sur un bras. Les médecins n'expliquent pas ce phénomène, pas plus que le prompt rétablissement de Lina, sortie de l'hôpital deux semaines plus tôt que prévu. Etendue sur son lit au milieu d'icônes, Lina reçoit maintenant jour et nuit des centaines de visiteurs, fervents ou curieux, qu'elle bénit de bonne grâce. Elle dit rester en communion avec la Vierge et ses parents témoignent: "Les icônes de Marie ont plusieurs fois versé des larmes, les lampes de la maison se sont toutes éteintes sauf celle éclairant la statuette de la Vierge," dit l'un d'eux. Pour l'instant, aucun responsable religieux ne s'est officiellement prononcé sur le cas Lina.

Robes palestiniennes à Paris

L'Institut du monde arabe (IMA) de Paris accueille jusqu'au 19 février la collection de robes et bijoux palestiniens de Widad Kassar, d'une exposition intitulée "Mémoire de soie". Mme Kassar, née à Jérusalem et résidente à Amman, présente une collection unique de 500 pièces dont les plus anciennes remontent au début du siècle. On découvre à travers l'exposition que la robe palestinienne jouit d'un fort engouement dans tout le monde arabe. Elle est notamment un fleuron de garde-robe pour les riches bourgeoises marocaines, égyptiennes ou saoudiennes.

Un Français Nobel d'économie

Maurice Allais, 77 ans, s'est vu décerner le 18 octobre le Prix Nobel d'économie, couronnant notamment ses travaux sur le fonctionnement des entreprises publiques. Il est considéré comme un des pionniers de l'analyse moderne en micro-économie. Ses théories les plus retentissantes ont été publiées entre 1943 et 1954. Maurice Allais a déclaré avoir attendu ce prix Nobel de longues années, estimant que les scientifiques de pays latins avaient longtemps été négligés par le comité de Stockholm.

Le saviez-vous?

Le pain des arabes

Si les Français croyaient détenir la médaille d'or des mangeurs de pain, il vaudrait l'avaler de travers: ce sont en effet les Égyptiens qui battent tous les records, avec une consommation de 180 kilos par an et par personne, soit l'équivalent de trois baguettes par jour. L'Égypte est ainsi le premier client des États-Unis pour la farine et son deuxième pour le blé. D'autre part, le pain bénéficie en Égypte de plus du quart des subventions accordées aux produits de première nécessité, évaluées à 2 milliards de dollars par an. Mais le prix du pain demeure artificiellement bas encourage le gaspillage. L'Égypte, qui dépend de l'étranger pour 60% de sa consommation alimentaire, entreprend actuellement une lutte contre le gaspillage du pain et un accroissement de sa surface ensemencée en blé.

Plus de 4.000 couples mixtes vivent en Jordanie

Arabes-Occidentales: mariages de déraison?

Le nombre croissant de Jordanais qui étudient à l'étranger favorise les mariages mixtes. Mais une fois passés les roucoulements sur les campus occidentaux, le retour au pays — à deux — s'avère parfois difficile. Surtout les premières années, l'équilibre du couple est menacé de chute dans le profond fossé culturel.

Le coquet appartement de Patricia, sur le djebel Amman, fleurit de l'Amérique profonde: papiers peints champêtres, bouquets de roses, napperons et soucoupes sous les tasses. Qui croirait que cette mère de famille rousse en robe imprimée jersey est l'épouse d'un musulman très pratiquant? Et pourtant...

Patricia, mariée à un ingénieur palestinien, est arrivée en Jordanie il y a dix ans. En servant le café léger et les cookies, elle se souvient: "Les débuts ont été difficiles psychologiquement. Walid, mon mari, avait vécu onze ans aux États-Unis. Il avait acquis le passeport et surtout la mentalité américaine. Je l'avais rencontré sur le campus et il habitait pratiquement chez mes parents, qui l'avaient très bien accepté. Quand nous avons débarqué à Amman, il a fallu se réajuster aux mœurs locales. Ma belle-famille ne m'en voulait pas d'être chrétienne et étrangère, mais on voulait à tout prix me convertir aux comportements locaux, jusqu'à la cuisine et la façon de servir les repas. J'ai résisté, calmement mais fermement. Le plus dur fut de se soustraire à ces éternelles visites de courtoisie chez les uns et les autres, ces réunions de famille que l'on organise par devoir et où l'on ne se dit pas grand-chose. J'ai épousé Walid Mais je refuse de me marier avec sa famille. J'avais l'impression d'être totalement acceptée, de ne plus avoir de vie privée."

Aujourd'hui, Patricia se dit heureuse en Jordanie, où elle a choisi de vivre. "Tant que les enfants sont jeunes, il est plus simple pour eux d'habiter ici: les gens sont plus gentils qu'aux États-Unis, plus accueillants, et il n'y a pas de danger de délinquance".

Dieu universel

Dina, 8 ans, fait irruption dans le salon. Roussie comme sa mère, elle parle indifféremment anglais et arabe. Dina est musulmane, mais à sa façon. Ses parents, tous deux très croyants dans leurs religions respectives, ont su trouver le compromis.

"L'important n'est pas tant l'appartenance religieuse que la foi elle-même. Walid et moi sommes attachés à une relation profonde et personnelle avec Dieu. Peu importe la liturgie que l'on met autour. Nous avons réfléchi trois ans sur l'éducation religieuse avant d'avoir notre premier enfant. Notre choix s'est porté sur une éducation musulmane par respect pour la famille de Walid. Mais quand les enfants vont aux États-Unis, ils fréquentent les églises et ne font pas de différence fondamentale. Il croient en Dieu, voilà tout."

Loin d'être un facteur de division, notre foi est un ciment de notre couple", conclut Patricia. Selon elle, la lecture du Coran montre que les principes moraux de l'Islam ne sont pas si différents de ceux du christianisme: respect de l'autre, charité, humilité...

Au total, Patricia s'est-elle intégrée? Comme beaucoup d'oc-



Un Français marié à une Irakienne: l'exception. La plupart des couples mixtes sont formés d'une Occidentale et d'un Arabe

cidentales interrogées, elle apprécie la gentillesse des gens envers elle, mais à toujours le sentiment d'être traitée en étrangère. Adaptée peut-être, assimilée sûrement pas. C'est normal, dira-t-on, car elle est chrétienne en milieu musulman. Mais le fossé culturel va bien au-delà de la seule confession religieuse. La plupart des étrangères mariées à des chrétiens (cas le plus fréquent) rencontrent elles aussi les mêmes difficultés dans les premiers temps.

Telle Candy, Américaine arrivée elle aussi il y a dix ans: "Je n'avais qu'une idée très vague de ce qui m'attendait ici. Quant à ma belle-famille, mon époux lui avait dissimulé notre union. Il faut dire que nous sommes arrivés ici sans être mariés. Le scandale! J'ai été totalement rejetée, obligée de vivre clandestinement avec lui dans un appartement sans chauffage. Dans les premiers temps, mon mari dépendait entièrement de sa famille financière. Une fois mariés, nous avons dû partager leur maison pendant six ans. Je ne pouvais pas travailler et je subissais en permanence leur indifférence hostile. Le contact était d'autant plus distant que je n'ai jamais appris l'arabe."

Son mari ne pouvait-il pas prendre sa défense? "Il a beaucoup changé. Sa famille était très pauvre. Lui s'était complètement américanisé pendant ses études. Mais le retour a été un choc pour lui. Il s'est soumis à une pression sociale très forte. D'autant plus qu'on lui reprochait de m'avoir épousée, alors qu'il y avait ici légion de jeunes jordaniennes "très bien" à marier. Il avait trahi. Alors, pour s'amender, il a adopté un profil bas, m'a interdit de parler dans les réunions où se trouvent des hommes, etc."

A écouter Candy, on a le sentiment pris au piège. Car elle aussi a fini par s'adapter, en avalant pas mal de couleuvres: "Quels que soient mes problèmes, j'aime mon mari. De toute façon, j'ai complètement perdu le contact avec ma famille, qui s'opposait à notre union. J'aime les arabes pour leur générosité. Les Américains me semblent être des machines à travailler et à s'enrichir; je ne pourrais plus retourner là-bas." Candy avoue tout de même se sentir un peu seule: "Les anglophones me procurent la seule compagnie vraiment intéressante. Mais ces gens-là vont et viennent..."

Mais quelle est donc la raison qui pousse ces garçons arabes à prendre pour femme des occidentales, sachant les problèmes qu'ils attendent au retour? Selon Mohammed Barhum, professeur de sociologie à l'université de Jordanie, la plupart d'entre eux franchissent un pas décisif lorsqu'ils partent étudier à l'étranger (60.000 actuellement, soit le double du nombre d'étudiants en Jordanie). Souvent, la tête leur tourne: "Ils ont moins de 20 ans. Ils découvrent un monde totalement nouveau, une atmosphère de liberté sexuelle. Leur "première fois". A ce coup de foudre, il faut ajouter le fait qu'ils ne comprennent parfois pas bien la langue de leur partenaire, ce qui peut entretenir l'illusion de l'amour. Nous en avons vu beaucoup à être nourris-blanche par leur mère, ils ont tendance à rechercher la cohabitation afin de retrouver cette ambiance familiale — ou plus prosaïquement — qui leur manque."

Et le tour est joué. Surtout si la fille tombe enceinte (la contraception reste marginale en Jordanie, selon le Pr. Barhum). Sans compter qu'en Jordanie, se marier coûte cher: dot en or et financement d'une cérémonie fastueuse sont attendus du garçon.

De là à dire que ces mariages sont des erreurs de jeunesse, il n'y a qu'un pas, que le Dr. Garabed Zakarian, psychiatre, ne franchit pas. Selon lui, 90% des mariages mixtes fonctionnent parfaitement. Pour le reste, les cas de schizophrénie rencontrés dans son cabinet constituent des "pathologies inhérentes aux patientes; elles auraient également eu des problèmes en restant dans leur pays".

La palme aux Yougoslaves

Les couples mixtes sont en très grande majorité formés d'une femme étrangère et d'un homme jordanien. Les jordaniennes en effet sont rares à faire leurs études à l'étranger. Nous avons recensé ces épouses importées dans une vingtaine de pays. Les chiffres obtenus sont pour la plupart approximatifs, recueillis auprès des consulats, clubs féminins ou par recoupements.

1. Yougoslavie: 850 environ
2. Espagne: 600 environ
3. URSS: 500 environ
4. États-Unis: 500 environ
5. Roumanie: 450 environ
6. RFA: 280
7. Royaume-Uni: 250 environ
8. Grèce: 200 environ
9. Italie: 150 environ
10. Brésil: 90
11. Pologne: 75 environ
12. Autriche: 40 environ
13. Tchécoslovaquie: 30 environ
14. RDA: 25 environ
15. Danemark: 20 environ
16. Hongrie: 20 environ
17. France: 15 environ
18. Suède: 14
19. Japon: 7

Les petits ramasseurs de boîtes de soda

"Ca rapporte plus que d'aller à l'école"

A l'occasion de la semaine internationale de l'enfant, S.M. la Reine Noor a patronné un séminaire de réflexion sur les enfants maltraités en Jordanie: violence, exploitation, etc. Les petits ramasseurs de boîtes de soda, sous-payés et souvent non-scolarisés, en donnent une illustration.

On les croise un peu partout dans les rues d'Amman, surtout à proximité des containers d'ordures. Ils ont de 8 à 14 ans et passent leurs journées à collecter dans des sacs en plastique les boîtes métalliques de Pepsi, Viva et autres Seven-Up. Une matière première qui, revendue à des "grossistes", leur rapportera quelques piastres.

Ahmed, 10 ans, passe au peigne fin les alentours d'un square à djebel Nuzha, à la recherche des précieux récipients. Il en charrie un énorme

sac transparent, presque plus gros que lui, sur le dos. "Je les vends, explique-t-il. Chaque fois que je remplis ce gros sac, je gagne 300 fils," pour une centaine de boîtes.

— Combien gagnes-tu par jour?

— 600 fils. 900 dans les bons jours.

Ahmed semble très pris par son travail. Sa propriété laisse à désirer, il est maigre. Mais avant de se replonger dans son activité lucrative, il daigne répondre à une dernière question.

— Que fait ton père?

— Je n'ai pas de père.

Et il disparaît avec son fardeau dans une ruelle avoisinante.

Clous et cailloux

Samir dira encore que son père est chômeur, qu'il a trois frères et deux sœurs. Il habite avec sa famille dans un taudis à djebel Manara, un quartier populaire de la capitale. Ce ferrailleur en culottes courtes n'a pas l'air, lui non plus, d'avoir les notions les

plus élémentaires d'hygiène et de propreté. Pour trouver sa denrée nourricière, il n'hésite pas à plonger tout entier dans les containers gorgés d'ordures.

Un supermarché, à proximité de la cité sportive. Le promeneur assoiffé boit un Seven-Up. L'enfant s'approche, attend que tombe par terre sa proie de fer blanc. Offrons-lui trois boîtes, sa langue se délie. Il s'appelle Hamdan, il a dix 10 ans, il fait les poubelles. Et surtout, il raconte ce que les "grossistes" font avec les milliers de boîtes que leur apportent quotidiennement Hamdan et bien d'autres enfants, près de Sahab (route de Madaba). Les vieilles boîtes sont recyclées pour en faire des neiges". Selon certaines sources, ces grossistes seraient une quinzaine à Amman.

Et si le couple affronte avec succès les difficultés de l'adaptation, sa cohésion en sort renforcée, disent les intéressés. Car si la femme étrangère doit affronter le "nouveau monde", c'est aussi à deux qu'elle l'a fait. Et même à plus, puisque l'enfant lui aussi se trouve confronté à un assaut de questions, dans la cour de l'école. Elias, marié à Thérèse, se souvient de son enfance entre père jordanien et mère française: "Il faut concilier mondes intérieur — la famille — et extérieur — la société — qui entrent en contradiction. Pendant la guerre d'Algérie, je demandais à ma mère 5 piastres pour la collecte du FLN. Pour ne pas être rejeté, je devais en faire plus que les autres, moi le "Français" au milieu d'Arabes".

Comment ces enfants définissent-ils leur nationalité? "Ici, ils disent qu'ils sont Jordano-Américains; aux États-Unis, ils inversent la formule!", explique Cathy. Petit à petit, l'enfant doit accepter qu'il n'est ni l'un ni l'autre. Et se réajuster chaque fois qu'il passe d'un milieu à l'autre. "Mes enfants ont leur grille de valeur, dit Thérèse: ils ne marchanderont jamais en France alors qu'ici, ils se comportent en véritables petits Arabes".

Reste que beaucoup finissent par pencher pour un côté plutôt que de l'autre. Cela dépendra bien sûr du lieu de résidence, mais aussi de l'aspect physique et du nom de l'enfant. "Mes enfants vont devoir choisir, mais comment choisir entre père et mère?", s'inquiète Martine. Son fils Fawaz est brun aux yeux noirs, il se dit Arabe. Comme son père. Mais de sa petite sœur, aux yeux bleus et à la peau de faïence, il dit qu'elle est française. Comme sa mère. "Ils parlent indifféremment les deux langues, mais utilisent plus volontiers l'arabe pour jurer ou pour tromper leur mère", sourit Rasmia, leur père. Rasmia pense que cette bi-culture leur donne plus de tolérance et les arme mieux dans la vie.

Même opinion chez Guy, Français marié à une Irakienne: "Les enfants ne voient d'habitude qu'une culture à la maison. Chez nous, ils en côtoient deux. Ils sont donc plus aptes à accepter la différence, à relativiser". Pour Guy, l'idéal est d'habiter dans un pays étranger à la fois aux deux époux, pour échapper aux pressions. "De toute façon on est un peu étrangers partout; donc on est bien partout", conclut-il.

F.D.

N.B.: Afin de respecter l'anonymat des personnes interviewées, nous avons utilisé pour certains des pseudonymes fictifs.

travaillait, vivait seule dans un appartement. Ici, elle ne pouvait même pas faire les courses.

"Il fallait qu'ils divorcent ou qu'ils déménagent", juge le Dr. Sarhan. Le couple a opté pour la deuxième solution et à présent, tout va bien. "Dans les pires des cas, on assiste à des dépressions sévères, alcoolisme, drogue et maladies. Ou encore, la femme s'enfuit en "volant" les enfants, puisque notre loi confie la garde des enfants à l'homme, qui seul peut les nourrir. Alors va commencer une guerre pour la possession des enfants", ajoute-t-il.

Mais ne nous laissons pas le tableau. Le Dr. Sarhan précise que les cas qu'il connaît sont évidemment les moins réussis, et que les couples mixtes ne constituent que 2% de sa clientèle.

Et si le couple affronte avec succès les difficultés de l'adaptation, sa cohésion en sort renforcée, disent les intéressés. Car si la femme étrangère doit affronter le "nouveau monde", c'est aussi à deux qu'elle l'a fait. Et même à plus, puisque l'enfant lui aussi se trouve confronté à un assaut de questions, dans la cour de l'école. Elias, marié à Thérèse, se souvient de son enfance entre père jordanien et mère française: "Il faut concilier mondes intérieur — la famille — et extérieur — la société — qui entrent en contradiction. Pendant la guerre d'Algérie, je demandais à ma mère 5 piastres pour la collecte du FLN. Pour ne pas être rejeté, je devais en faire plus que les autres, moi le "Français" au milieu d'Arabes".

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Résurrection

Le Jordan Times a le plaisir de vous proposer une page hebdomadaire en français. Notre journal poursuit ainsi la première expérience de ce type en Jordanie, inaugurée par nos confrères du Jerusalem Star. "Le Jourdain" sera hebdomadaire les jeudis, afin de répondre à plusieurs objectifs.

Il s'agit d'abord d'un service rendu à nos lecteurs francophones, étrangers aussi bien qu'arabes. Il constituera ensuite un terrain d'expression pour des journalistes jordanien et arabes désireux de développer leur pratique professionnelle en français. Ils pourront ainsi enrichir les relations personnelles et professionnelles entre journalistes arabes et médias francophones à l'étranger. C'est enfin le symbole de l'ouverture dont ont toujours fait preuve la Jordanie et ses habitants: nous sommes ouverts sur l'extérieur, nous cherchons à interagir avec les autres peuples, cultures et idées dans le monde, de manière constructive et productive.

A l'instar de celle du Jerusalem Star, cette page en français comblera des nouvelles et enquêtes jordanien, arabes et internationales, sous la supervision technique de François Ducroux. Tous commentaires et contributions de nos lecteurs en Jordanie et à l'étranger sont les bienvenus, quelles que soient leur nationalité et leurs opinions. Nous serions particulièrement heureux d'accueillir les contributions de jeunes jordanien sachant écrire le français et désireux de développer une pratique professionnelle du journalisme en français.

Le rédacteur en chef

On les croyait enterrés, les voici qui resussitent. Il n'aura pas fallu plus d'un mois au Jordan Times pour accueillir chaque semaine les pages en français orphelines après la disparition du Jerusalem Star. Le défunt hebdomadaire avait pris le risque d'imprimer les premiers articles jamais publiés en Jordanie dans la langue de Voltaire. Le pari n'était pas gagné d'avance dans un pays où domine largement l'écriture anglophone. Et pourtant, le français avait trouvé ses lecteurs: expatriés d'hexagone, jordanien, libanais, et tant d'autres qui, de près ou de loin, avaient des notions de français. Que le Jordan Times soit remercié d'avoir si rapidement jugé utile de ne pas priver nos lecteurs de leur supplément hebdomadaire.

Vous trouverez dans cette nouvelle page un esprit identique à celui qui animait "Le Jourdain" du Jerusalem Star: priorité aux enquêtes et reportages sur la vie jordanienne, informations, services locaux, assésés d'une synthèse de l'actualité de la semaine dans la région, Europe et en France. Comme par le passé, vos suggestions, critiques et collaborations en tous genres sont les bienvenues. Elle contribueront à la qualité et au succès de notre second souffle.

François Ducroux

FIGURE

Le ministre-clown



"Ils veulent nous piquer notre blé!"

La première "sortie" médiatique du nouveau ministre délégué au budget, le 21 septembre à la radio, a fait l'effet d'une bombe. Vitupérant contre l'augmentation des tarifs des cartes de crédit, Michel Charasse assène: "Ces banquiers, ils veulent nous prendre notre blé et qu'on s'en serve pas". Avec son cigare et ses bretelles, la presse l'a surnommé le "Coluche de la rue de Rivoli". Michel Charasse, 47 ans, est entré au ministère des finances il y a 23 ans. Devenu secrétaire général adjoint du groupe socialiste à l'Assemblée nationale, il fait figure d'encyclopédie vivante de la technique budgétaire et du droit constitutionnel. Il est réputé passer des week-ends entiers enfermé dans son bureau, à taper des amendements à deux doigts en brillant des insinuations.

L'idée du référendum sur le référendum, qui sortit en 1984 François Mitterrand du piège de la guerre scolaire, c'est lui. Le président saura s'en souvenir. Mais si "Tonton" regarde d'un oeil indulgent ce trublion hyperactif, la rusticité de ses propos a fait pas l'unanimité: Pierre Bérégovoy, ministre des finances, juge ses écarts de langage "inconvenants". Réponse du chahuteur, par journalistes interposés: "Tout le monde dit m... quatre fois par jour; je ne vois pas pourquoi je ne le dirais pas à l'antenne".

Récentement, Charasse se trouve aux toilettes du ministère à côté d'un huissier. "C'est vraiment dégueulasse, ici", lui lance-t-il. Et l'autre d'approuver à deux mains en lui demandant s'il est nouveau. "Moi? Je suis le ministre..." L'huissier court toujours.

A L'AFFICHE

EXPOSITIONS CONCERTS

Ahmad Nawash
Originaire de Jérusalem et diplômé de l'école des Beaux-arts de Paris, Ahmad Nawash a exposé ses gravures et lithographies tant en Jordanie qu'en Europe.
CCF, du 24 octobre au 3 novembre

Piano et violon
Matthias Kellig et Tibor Kovacs jouent Mozart, Beethoven, Fagiani, Turini, Wieniawski et Sarasate, à l'initiative de l'ambassade de RFA.
Hôtel Amra, mercredi 26 à 20h00

La maison arabe
Hana Sadik Beraoud expose sa collection personnelle de meubles, tissus, cuivres, poteries et kilims en provenance d'Irak.
Centre culturel Royal, du 19 au 23 octobre

Orchestre symphonique de Princeton
Sous la direction de Mark Levyck, les 30 musiciens interprètent Mozart, Haydn, Rossini, Strauss, Bizet et Tchaikovsky entre autres.
Mercredi 26 au Centre Culturel Royal Vendredi 28 au Centre Culturel (Sports City) Renseignements: 687 620

CINEMA
Mr. Smith goes to Washington
De Franck Capra, avec Jean Arthur et James Stewart. Un sénateur ne se laisse entrainer à son insu dans une vaste machination politico-médiatique. Un des meilleurs rôles de James Stewart.
Centre américain, jeudi 20 à 19h00 (en anglais)

TELEVISION
"Le passé simple", avec Victor Lanoux et Marie-Josée Nadi. Cécile devient amnésique à la suite d'un accident de voiture. Lorsqu'elle se réveille, son mari lui est devenu totalement étranger. Reconstitution du passé: lui en chercherait-il une partie? (JTV, vendredi 21 à 17h30)

Ma photo dans le journal

Clichés de week-ends drôles, insolites, émouvants: envoyez-nous vos meilleures photos, assorties d'un (court) texte d'explication. Nous en ferons profiter nos lecteurs.

Envoyez vos tirages-papier à F. Ducroux, Jordan Times, French section, P.O. Box 6710, Amman.

Suleiman Sweiss

Four Yugoslav politburo members relieved of seats

Suvar proposes sweeping changes

BELGRADE (AP) — Communist Party chief Stipe Suvar Wednesday proposed a secret vote of confidence in members of the ruling Politburo and replacing one-third of the policy-setting Central Committee within six weeks.

Four Politburo members whose resignations already had been announced also were relieved of their seats on the third day of a Central Committee meeting rife with debate among leaders divided over widespread demonstrations against economic hardships and ethnic disputes.

In the tense province of Kosovo, wracked for months by ethnic unrest, early Wednesday editions of the official Yugoslav Daily Borba said many of the region's

nian majority is harassing them in an effort to force their emigration. Almost daily rallies have occurred for the past three months in the impoverished southern province.

Economic troubles, including 217 per cent inflation, 15 per cent unemployment and a \$21-billion foreign debt, have sparked demonstrations in other areas, creating the country's worst crisis since World War II.

The proposed Central Committee turnover would be the largest single shift in the ruling elite since 1948, when Stalinists were purged after former leader Josip Broz Tito broke with Moscow.

Activists end Johannesburg sit-in

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Three South African political prisoners ended a five-week sit-in at the U.S. consulate in Johannesburg Wednesday.

The anti-apartheid activists, Murphy Morobe, Mohammed Valli and Vusi Khanyile, left the consulate's 11th floor offices in central Johannesburg shortly after midday (1000 GMT).

The activists gave clenched-fist salutes, but made no formal statements, as they emerged from an elevator and passed through the lobby of the office building, where scores of supporters and journalists were waiting for them.

Young blacks in the lobby and the street outside chanted "Viva" and the activists were greeted by

several of the country's most prominent anti-apartheid leaders. The men then were driven to a nearby campus of the University of the Witwatersrand, where they were to hold a news conference to discuss their plans.

Riot police, armed with truncheons and shotguns, were deployed at the scene. Officers sought to keep the crowd under control and police camera crews filmed the event.

A large crowd greeted the group with shouts of "amandla" (freedom) as they walked to a waiting car in Johannesburg's market street.

The South African government has pledged that the three, who escaped to the consulate on Sept.

13 while being treated at Johannesburg hospital, will not be re-arrested.

Police armed with truncheons and shotguns were at the scene as the three appeared but made no move to detain or question them.

The three, smartly dressed in business suits, gave clenched fist salutes to supporters before driving off to a press conference.

Dozens of prominent anti-apartheid activists were on hand to welcome the group, including Archie Gumede and Albertina Sisulu, co-presidents of the United Democratic Front (UDF) organization.

Morobe and Valli, senior figures in the UDF, had spent 14 months in jail without trial.

Hanoi rejects United Nations draft document on Kampuchea

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam has spurned a proposed United Nations resolution on Kampuchea as lacking measures to stop the Khmer Rouge from taking power again if the decade-old conflict ends.

Hanoi Radio Wednesday quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying the resolution, drafted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), distorted the realities of Kampuchea.

"Vietnam's clear stance is that it cannot accept the ASEAN countries' draft resolution," said the radio, monitored in Bangkok.

Vietnam, which toppled the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge and set up a pro-Hanoi government after invading Kampuchea in December 1978, has rejected nine similar annual U.N. resolutions demanding its troops withdrawn unconditionally.

Hanoi and Phnom Penh insist that the Khmer Rouge, now

an ASEAN-backed guerrilla force and the main partner in a U.N.-recognized insurgent coalition, disband and that foreign aid to insurgents be stopped as part of any negotiated solution.

The Khmer Rouge is widely held responsible for the deaths of up to one million people during its four-year rule.

"U.N. resolutions on the Kampuchean issue have not helped resolve this conflict. On the contrary they have created confrontation between South-East Asian nations and the Kampuchean parties," said the Vietnamese statement.

Vietnam, which promised to withdraw its more than 100,000 troops from Kampuchea by early 1990, said the conflict "was being settled outside the U.N. framework."

The annual U.N. resolutions drafted by ASEAN members Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and

Brunei are regularly passed overwhelmingly. Western diplomats said the same should apply to the 1988 resolution, due for debate Nov. 2.

This year ASEAN has for the first time included an indirect censure of the Khmer Rouge, saying Kampuchea should not return to "the universally condemned policies and practices of a recent past."

But the Vietnamese statement said: "The ASEAN countries' resolution fails to bring out the profound concern and strong demand of the world public and many countries at the U.N. General Assembly that the (Khmer Rouge) be effectively prevented from returning to Kampuchea after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops."

Vietnam, ASEAN, the Phnom Penh government and the guerrilla coalition began talks in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday on a possible solution in Kampuchea.

Swiss court rules Marcos funds could be returned to Philippines

GENEVA (R) — A Swiss judge decided Tuesday that millions of dollars sent to Geneva by deposed Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos should conditionally be put at the disposal of the Philippines, judicial sources said.

The decision, which Marcos lawyers are almost certain to appeal, stipulates that the funds can be transferred after the Philippines courts begin a criminal trial of Marcos, they said.

The judge, Vladimir Stemberger, also decided bank documents

on Marcos' accounts in Geneva could be sent to Manila as soon as any appeals through the Swiss courts are completed.

In June, Marcos appealed a similar decision in the Swiss canton of Fribourg involving 70 million Swiss francs (\$46 million). It was not clear how much money Marcos held in Geneva, but the sources said it was in the range of tens of millions of dollars, though less than the amount in Fribourg.

The Philippines says that for a man with a salary of less than

\$5,000 a year to accumulate such wealth, he must have siphoned off public funds during his two decades as president before his overthrow in February 1986.

But little evidence has surfaced here so far that he has secreted away billions of dollars in Switzerland as Manila has claimed.

Despite its reputation for banking secrecy, Switzerland has shown willingness to assist in cases of criminal activity. But it has insisted Marcos be charged and have the right to defend himself.

U.S. bases pact sparks controversy in Manila

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino Wednesday dismissed criticism of a new agreement on the leasing of military bases to the United States, and the largest political party in congress pledged to support the controversial accord.

Criticism of the treaty continued. About 150 members of the leftist May First movement burned an American flag near the U.S. embassy to protest the signing Monday in Washington by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus.

Marchers shouted anti-American slogans and carried banners displaying slogans opposing the bases. Riot police prevented

them from marching to the embassy grounds, and they dispersed peacefully.

The agreement allows the United States to maintain six bases here until 1991 in return for \$962 million in aid over the final two years of the pact.

Filipino negotiators had demanded \$1.2 billion annually, and critics charged the government settled for too little. Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile said the agreement showed that Aquino had secretly decided to work for extending the bases after their lease expires in September 1991.

"I knew that it would not get total acceptance," Aquino said of the agreement. "But I still be-

lieve Secretary Manglapus did a very commendable job and that certainly, it is a big improvement from the previous bases agreement."

The United States had been paying \$180 million a year for use of Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller installations.

Despite the increase, there has been strong criticism of the agreement because the government raised public expectations that it would hold out for \$1.2 billion a year as well as other concessions that Manglapus failed to win.

"Short end of the deal"

"The general perception is that

the Philippines got the short end of the deal, and this perception is expected to be exploited by the anti-bases bloc to further fan the wave of anti-Americanism in the country," wrote columnist Alvin Capino in Wednesday's Philippine Daily Globe.

The pro-Aquino "Struggle of the Democratic Filipino" Party said Wednesday that the agreement provided nearly three times as much aid as the United States granted to now-ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

The party claims membership of 145 of the 202 house members and six of the 23 senators.

Two Indian air crashes kill 165

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Two elderly Indian Airlines crashed 2,000 kilometres apart Wednesday, killing 165 people on the worst day in the country's domestic aviation history.

A 28-year-old Boeing 737 of the main domestic carrier, Indian Airlines, burst into flames when it hit the ground five kilometres short of the airport at Ahmedabad, the biggest city in the western state of Gujarat.

Five of the 135 people on board survived India's worst domestic air crash. Airline officials said the survivors, all Indians, suffered burns and three were in critical condition.

Two Japanese were aboard the plane along with five other foreigners whose nationalities were not immediately known.

Two hours after the Ahmedabad disaster, a 25-year-old Fokker Friendship Turboprop of Vayudoot, India's second domestic carrier, lost contact with the control tower at Gauhati in the mountainous northeastern state of Assam.

Air force helicopters spotted the wreckage on a forested hill 20 kilometres away several hours later.

A spokeswoman for the Vayudoot airline expressed fears there were no survivors.

The Indian Airlines flight crashed in thick fog at 7:40 a.m. (0210 GMT), on its final approach to Ahmedabad airport, said Capt. J.D. Rao, company operations manager in Bombay. The airport is about 800 kilometres southwest of New Delhi.

The plane made more than one attempt to land, according to G.K. Rawal, police inspector at the Ahmedabad airport.

Rawal said 130 bodies had been recovered, and that the five survivors — all hospitalized after being rescued from the burning aircraft — were expected to pull through.

Another airport police official said it was proving impossible to identify many of the bodies because they had been burned beyond recognition.

One survivor, Vinod Tripathy, said the plane exploded in the air and then again after crashing. He said he was burned in the second blast.

"I can, even at the age of 57, run like a hare," Tripathy told reporters from his bed at civil hospital. "I continued to run, undeterred by the two blasts and later, after covering a reasonable distance, fell unconscious."

6 share Nobel physics, chemistry prizes

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Leon Lederman and Melvin Schwartz of the United States and Jack Steinberger of Switzerland won the Nobel prize in physics Wednesday.

The Royal Academy of Sciences also named three West Germans — Johann Deisenhofer, Robert Huber and Hartmut Michel, as winners of the Nobel prize in chemistry.

The West Germans were cited "for the determination of the

three-dimensional structure of a photo-synthetic reaction centre." "They are the first to succeed in unravelling the full details of how a membrane-bound protein is built up, revealing the structure of the molecule atom by atom," the announcement said.

Each prize carries a cash award of \$390,000 to be divided among the winners.

The three physics winners were cited for their work with neutrino beams. The announcement said

their work was carried out in the 1960s.

The announcement also cited their discovery of the moon neutrino.

Neutrinos, the most common particles in nature, are constituents of matter so tiny that they have "ghostlike" qualities that enable them to pass through any surface.

"The contribution now awarded consisted among other things of transforming the ghostly

neutrino into an active tool of research," the announcement said.

Schwartz said in a telephone interview from his home in San Francisco that he was excited about the award.

"The work was the first pioneering effort to essentially put together an experiment in which neutrinos... which very rarely interact in matter at all... interact," he said.

Thousands protest in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Police fired tear-gas and rubber bullets as thousands of demonstrators took part in widespread anti-government protests in Sri Lanka Wednesday, police said.

A senior military official said a six-hour curfew was imposed in the north-central town of Anuradhapura after stone-throwing demonstrators damaged at least six buses.

Colombo police said about 5,000 people marched through the suburb of Ratmalana demanding the government's resignation and the removal of 52,000 Indian troops sent to Sri Lanka to enforce a peace accord signed with India last year.

Police fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters who damaged buses and police jeeps. Some policemen received minor injuries.

Port and railway workers in Colombo also joined the protests which disrupted train services.

Police said in several areas in southern Sri Lanka, banks, government offices, factories and shops closed as employees joined street protests.

The military official said the protests were organized by the People's Liberation Front which has been blamed for more than 450 murders in its campaign against the India-Sri Lanka accord aimed at ending a Tamil separatist revolt.

Police said the rebels also raided a police post in central Kandy district and stole six guns and ammunition.

Front gunmen shot dead a driver employed by the chairman of Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party Tuesday night in the southern town of Piliyandala.

In another development, reports said Wednesday that 600 Indian soldiers had been killed and about 1,400 wounded in action in Sri Lanka up to early October this year.

The Indian peacekeeping force was brought to control the Tamil rebels operating in the north of the country after Colombo and New Delhi signed the peace pact. Voices of dissent against the pact have also been gathering strength in the run-up to the next general elections in Sri Lanka.

Trial threatens Corsican truce

BORDEAUX, France (R) — Corsican nationalist leaders say a four-month truce declared by separatist guerrillas on the French island is in danger unless two alleged killers are cleared of a 1982 murder.

Defence witness Edmond Simeoni, leader of the Union of Corsican People, said Tuesday the trial of Felix Tomasi and Charles Pieri threatened the tenuous peace now reigning in Corsica after years of killings and bombings.

"This happy truce has got Corsica out of the daily diet of bombs and chaos. Good sense has begun to prevail but this trial could set things back," Simeoni told a panel of seven judges in the no-jury trial reserved for terrorist offences.

Separatist guerrillas of the banned Corsican National Liberation

Front have threatened to end the truce if the two men are convicted of killing a soldier and wounding another in a raid on a Foreign Legion base in Corsica in 1982.

The front claimed responsibility for the killing, but the two defendants deny they took part in the raid. They have been held in custody since 1983.

Another defence witness, nationalist politician Leo Battisti, appealed to the court to turn a "bad page in Corsica's history" by ending the victimisation of separatists.

He said the trial could mark the end of "the legal system's attacks on militant nationalists."

Battisti denied the guerrillas were trying to blackmail French justice by threatening renewed violence.

"We want justice to be respected, but we also want it to be

respectable," he said.

In Paris, political sources said Socialist Prime Minister Michel Rocard was attempting to end the conflict which has killed dozens on the island since the 1970s.

Although the government has ruled out granting independence to Corsica, the sources said discreet contacts had been made between officials and separatists.

They said Rocard might pledge to give the island a massive injection of cash and resources to alleviate unemployment, which is higher than the national average.

Rocard recently succeeded in curbing separatist strife in the overseas territory of New Caledonia. He initiated peace talks on the South Pacific islands between separatists and pro-French loyalists which ended in an accord to lay down arms.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
By Bernice Gordon

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